EXCLUSIVE STORY INSIDE !
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 4
EPISODE II
SONIC
SUPER SPECIAL
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SEGA
ISSUE 3

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

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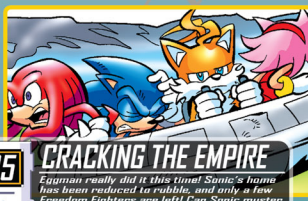

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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

ISSUE 3 April 2012 VISIT US ONLINE ARCHIECOMICS.COM

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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE
PO Box 419 Mamaroneck, NY 10543 Phone: 914-381-5155 x 235
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THE COLLECTOR: SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE (ISSN: 2164-456X). No. 3. June. 2012. Published quarterly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Originally published in single magazine form in Sonic the Hedgehog # 25, 213, 214, & 175. Jonathan Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies $2.99. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2012. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2012. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 350 Rhode Island Street, Ste 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage pending at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in USA.

SONIC GRAMS PRESENTS

HEY KIDS!

WRITE TO
US @: SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY
MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC
PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX # 419
MAMARONECK NY 10543-0419
YOU CAN ALSO WRITE
IN VIA E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

LETTERS

Hope y'all enjoyed the SONIC ADVENTURE feature in our last SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, it was a real blast putting it together! This time we got an all new cover by Sonic comic artist Ben Bates, as well as an all-new SONIC 4 EPISODE II adaption story! Also, remember to write in to "SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY," we want to hear from YOU!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Hi! My name is Luke! I'm one of your HUGE fans writing off, and coming with questions!

Howdy there, Luke! You'll have the usual!

1) How did Fiona get on the team of Freedom Fighters? Wasn't she an auto automaton?

Fiona was indeed an Auto-Automaton way back when she debuted in the Tails mini-series, but ACTUALLY that was a robot based on a REAL Fiona, who had been imprisoned for years! When she escaped, she became a Freedom Fighter for a time, until she eventually found her true calling -- super villainy! (now there's a career move for ya!)

2) Is Sonic gonna bump heads with Shadow anytime soon?

Sonic and Shadow's rivalry is FAR from over -- in the meantime you can check out their titanic clash in Sonic Universe Volume 1 -- available wherever fine graphic novels are sold! plugplugplugplug

3) Is the Tails Doll going to be in any of the comics? That would be way past cool.

You bet your Mobian patootie it is! "Operation Deadly Cuddles" as the good Doctor Eggman calls it, will be wreaking some havoc in the near future! Keep them eyes peeled!

4) Why are there holes in the comic book series on the Sonic Comics App?

Holes you say? Well the Sonic App is constantly growing to include

SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY

every issue of the series, so be sure and check back often for updates!

5) Is Sonic X going to appear on the Sonic Comics App? That would be awesome!

If the fans demand it, how can we say no?

Anyway, that's all my questions. Your comics are awesome!
Luke G.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

YOU are awesome -- thanks for writing in, Luke!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Ever since I saw him in Scourge's arc (Sonic Universe #'s 29-32), I've been wondering: will Mephiles make anymore cameos in the series?
Tess W.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

We were very pleased at the fan response toward Mephiles' cameo appearance in "Scourge: Lock-Down," and would love to include the character into future issues! But where and when that will happen will have to remain a mystery for now...

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Okay, before I question the stuff I'm not sure on, I'm just going to point out that there may be a few typos.
(I just ate about 6 pounds of mint ice cream)

****slow clap****

1) In Sonic's opinion, is Knuckles considered a friend, enemy, or frenemy?

Frenemy, definitely! And for anyone out there looking to learn a little more about "frenemies," make sure you check out the new Archie "Jinx" graphic novel, featuring inks and letters by Sonic's own Terry Austin and John Workman! plusplugplugplug

2) Do you guys think Espio and friends deserve their own SU Arc? (I sure do.)

We do too! Sonic fans: do NOT fear...the Chaotix, Mighty and Ray, Knuckles--all of these stories will continue!

3) Last but not least, how old is Espio? (He's my absolute FAVORITE character!!)

I love Espio too! Did you catch him in the SU arc "Journey to the East"?? Lots of big character reveals there! (plugplugplugplug) But yea he's 16.

Thanks for reading my questions. I am your absolute BIGGEST fan ever!

I'll be the judge of that!

Oh, and feel free to point out typos. I'm definitely used to it :D
Your Biggest Fan\Reader,
Joshua C.
from Nova Scotia

Thanks Joshua, you sir, are awesome beyond compare!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Yes, a super-sized letter column! I will try to make this short enough to fit! I think issues 230 to 232 are the best issues Ian Flynn has ever written of Sonic the Hedgehog! He is on a roll! They were filled with drama, surprises and action, and I enjoyed their 'boldness' in shaking up the continuity.
Best of chili dogs,
Matthew F.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada

Glad to hear you're diggin' STH, and thanks for writing in Matthew!

That's all for Super Special delivery this month, but make sure y'all keep writing in and letting us know what you think of the Sonic Super Special Magazine!

SUPER SHOUT – OUTS

"If Sally is not a robot in Sonic Universe 30 Years Later that means that she will change back to normal in the Sonic the Hedgehog comics...right?" *- Josh W.*
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

"When is Dr. Finitevus making his next appearance? It has been over 2 years, and I really want to see my favorite villain again!" *- J*
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

"You guys only continue to impress me with every passing issue." *-Daniel C. from Massachusetts*

"Jamal Peppers has amazing artistic talents as well as an amazing last name!" *- Jacob W.*
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

"I'd like the honor of doing this: For more Sonic goodness check out Sonic Universe, Sonic Archives, the Sonic checklist, and the Sonic Comic App available on the app store plugplugplugplug." *- Ian H*
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

A HERO'S SACRIFICE!

Commander Antoine D'Coolette has come a long way since his first appearance waaaaay back in **1993's Sonic the Hedgehog (mini-series) #1**.

Early on, Antoine was the most skittish of the **Freedom Fighters**, but tried to hide his inner doubt and jumpiness with swaggering bravado, earning him endless heckling from **Sonic the Hedgehog**. His romantic advances towards **Princess Sally** were snubbed, which worsened his self-esteem. A break came in the form of **Bunnie Rabbot**, who managed to see the scared but heroic boy beneath the facade. She eventually helped Antoine ease into his true self. From leaping at shadows, to conquering his fears, to finally marrying the love of his life, Antoine grew into a **beloved hero** for the crown of Acorn and pivotal player in the Freedom Fighters.

Such heroism was on full display in the pages of **Sonic the Hedeghog #234**, when he lept into battle and bravely sacrificed his own safety for the safety of the Acorn Royal family. While Antoine appears not to have paid the ultimate price for this bravery, he is now confined to a hospital room, with a bleak prognosis.

Is this the end of the line for Commander D'Coolette? **"The future's not written for ol' 'Twan yet -- and I'm not spoiling! But I think what we should take away from this right now is how much he's grown as a character, as a hero, and be proud he did the right thing when he was needed," says writer Ian Flynn**, "but one thing is for certain, it doesn't look good for Antoine right now. His sacrifice to me is the ultimate testament to his evolution as a character, which is nothing short of spectacular!" Pay careful attention to **future** issues for emerging details regarding **Antoine's fate**, and indeed the fate of the Freedom Fighters as a team!■

SACRÉ BLEU CHEESE!

ANTOINE HAS BECOME MUCH LESS COWARDLY OVER TIME. HOWEVER, HE STILL RETAINS HIS SKITTISH DEMEANOR

THE "SECRET" IS OUT!

AN UNDERCOVER ENSEMBLE

The Freedom Fighters have fallen and IXIS NAUGUS rules the kingdom! Who will work in the shadows to restore order, protect the city and fight the future? Sonic Universe #41-44 gives us the answer...THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

Silver the Hedgehog has tried many times to prevent his terrible future by stopping the Freedom Fighter traitor, still largely unkown! Now, at the cusp of Mobius' darkest hour, Silver finds himself banded together with **Elias Acorn**, the true king, and **Harvey Who**, the owl behind the curtain, to find out what Ixis Naugus is up to and stop his Machiavellian scheme before it's too late!

In addition to Elias and Harvey, Silver is joined by **Larry Lynx** -- former leader of the Substitute Legion of Freedom Fighters, **Leeta and Lyco** -- twin warriors of the Wolf Pack Nation and **Shard** -- previously Metal Sonic 2.5! Can they stop Ixis Naugus? Pick up SU#41 to find out! ON SALE JUNE 2012!■

CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN!

DESIGN INSPIRATION FOR THE CHARACTERS' BATTLE SUITS WERE TAKEN FROM RIVALS 2 FOR PSP!

METAL MADNESS!

THE RETURN OF METAL SONIC!

The fierce battle from Episode I was only an overture...

What was Dr. Eggman searching for in the Lost Labyrinth? What was Mad Gear built for? They were all mere puzzle pieces in a far more grandiose scheme! As Little Planet, where **"SONIC CD"** took place, approaches Sonic's world once again, Dr. Eggman's evil plot will be revealed!

SONIC 4: EPISODE II begins where Episode I left off! To top things off, Eggman has revived one of Sonic's greatest rivals, **METAL SONIC**! Sonic and his sidekick, **MILES "TAILS" PROWER,** band together to stop the Eggman, but how do they get started? Find out in our comic adaptation, this issue, and download the game on May 15, 2012 for your PS3, XBOX 360, or your mobile device!■

THE STAGES SO FAR!

SYLVANIA CASTLE ZONE

The ruins of a lost castle filled with deadly traps in a mystical forest!

WHITE PARK ZONE

Part Christmas, part Carnival Night, all fun! Enjoy the rides and the snow!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

PRESENTS:

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL SPECTACULAR

Welcome, Sonic fans young and old! Jonathan "WB" Gray, your Sonic Off-Panel artist here! The Archie Sonic Team has seen fit to give me my own column (THE FOOLS! MWAHAHAHA!!!) where I can discuss topics with you guys and be "YOUR MAN ON THE INSIDE!"

STH Presents: Knuckles Archives #2
In comic shops - 3/21/2012 $9.99 US/$10.99 CAN

Featuring the 1st appearances of fan faves Julie-Su and Remington! The Dingo Regime and the Dark Legion attack just in time for the return of the mad demi-god Enerjak! Collecting the **"Lost Paradise"** and **"Dark Vengeance"** sagas from Knuckles #4-9!

Sonic Select #5: Sonic Kids!
In comic shops - 4/25/2012 $11.99 US/$12.99 CAN

Dial your clocks back to a cuter yesterday and take a gander at our heroes during their childhood! See the creation of the Freedom Fighters, the birth of Tails, and how Sonic got his sneakers! But watch out, 'cuz classic Dr. Robotnik may be right around the corner!

The Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Volume 1
In comic shops - 5/23/2012 $24.99 US/$27.99 CAN

Join us as the Archie Comics Sonic Team selects their favorite stories from the history of the series and presents them in this thematic hardcover collection! From **"Mecha Madness"** to **"Eggman Empire"** this is, bar none, the cream of the crop!

Sonic the Hedgehog Archives #18
In comic shops - 6/13/2012 $7.99 US/$8.99 CAN

With the World Tour over, evil archwizard Ixis Naugus defeated and the recluse Nate Morgan in tow, Sonic and Tails return home to find a new prince, a new city and tons of adventure! Meanwhile, a shadowy figure plots from his satellites in space...

It's a great time to be a Sonic fan, gang! The games are speeding along spectacularly and the comics are careening full-tilt towards adventure like a rollercoaster that's gone cuckoo-bananas!

As I sat at my art table several days ago pouring over color corrections for **Knuckles Archives Vol. 2**, I thought to myself how far the comic has come since I was a kid in school eagerly awaiting my next issue like many of you are. I'd rush home, turn off the TV, shut my door and lie down to read endless piles of comics -- but the Sonic ones always held a special place during my reading time.

Now I look at all of the books to left that are being put together by the Archie Sonic Team and smile knowing all the love and dedication being poured into them. We might put some of your favorite characters through the wringer, but that's all part of telling a story that you, the reader, can enjoy!

Whether we're editors, writers, artists, letterers, inkers or production artists *ahem* we want feedback from you and hope that you enjoy the ride we've taken the meticulous care to craft for you!

DUB'S TRIVIA CORNER!

Part of the initiative for Sonic Archives hasn't just been collecting material; it also includes taking the time to restore it! When you pick up your copy of **Knuckles Archives vol. 2**, take a second glance at the citizens of Echidnaopolis! Many are sporting new hues to match the crazy color spectrums found in Sonic's world today!

Catch you on the flip side, gang!

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

NEW LOOKS ON A NEWER LIFE!

The GENESIS event, now available in hardcover GN, redefined and rewrote not only Planet Mobius, but all of Sonic's universe from the ground up! With the push of a button, the evil Dr. Eggman launched "Operation: Clean Sweep!" and changed *everything*...

High in the planet's orbit, deep in the heart of the Death Egg, **SUPER SONIC** fought and defeated the Eggman's latest Egg Destroyer Battlesuit! Using Chaos Control, an exhausted Sonic set things back to the way they once were.

...But what was going through the minds of Sonic's friends planetside as the white light flashed and the Universe changed itself back?

GENESIS: AWAKENINGS retells the story of "Two Steps Back" as printed in **Sonic the Hedgehog #230**, but this time, before the white light envelops all of Mobius, take a quick glimpse into the minds of Sonic's friends just prior to Sonic and Sally's heroic sacrifice aboard the Death Egg. Join Tails the Fox, Amy Rose, Knuckles the Echidna, Rotor the Walrus and even that saucy southern belle, Bunnie Rabbot for the **2012 FREE COMIC BOOK DAY** issue of **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** -- available at your participating local comic book store May 5th, 2012!■

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE
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THE FASTEST THING ALIVE!

CLASSIC SONIC CARTOONS RETURN ON NETFLIX

With the addition of the Saturday morning ABC Sonic cartoon to its lineup, all three of the American DiC produced Sonic cartoons are now available on Netflix! Let's take a look at each one! Which one is your favorite?

Sonic the Hedgehog
Original Run: 1993-1994

Sonic SatAM, as it's known to its fans, introduced us to the world of Planet Mobius and Sonics friends, the Freedom Fighters! Together they fight to defeat Dr. Robotnik and save King Acorn from the Void!

DID YOU KNOW: Just like the early days of the comic, Sally appears in the pilot colored pink!

Adventures of Sonic
Original Run: 1993-1996

AoSTH was the wackier of the Sonic cartoons harkening to slapstick with Sonic and Tails VS Dr. Robotnik and his badniks, Scratch, Grounder and fan favorite, Coconuts!

DID YOU KNOW: Long John Baldry, from the show, was Dr. Ivo Robotnik! He was a TV star!

Sonic Underground
Original Run: 1999-2000

SU paired Sonic with a new brother and sister, Sonia and Manic. Together they toured Mobius as a rock band, stopping Dr. Robotnik and searching for their mother, Queen Aleena!

DID YOU KNOW: Knuckles and a new version of Athair from the comics also appear in the show!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

SONIC 4 EPISODE II

PREVIOUSLY...

AFTER BEING REPEATEDLY DEFEATED, **DR. EGGMAN** FINALLY DECIDED TO FOCUS ON GETTING RID OF HIS ULTIMATE PROBLEM, **SONIC**, ONCE AND FOR ALL! THE **INSANE SCIENTIST** REVISITED -- AND **IMPROVED** -- HIS MOST SUCESSFUL CREATIONS IN HOPES THAT THEY WOULD GET THE BEST OF THE **BLUE BLUR**.

SONIC, WHO IS ALWAYS READY FOR ANOTHER **ADVENTURE**, BLASTED THROUGH EGGMAN'S ROBOTS AS WELL AS FOUR **FANTASTIC ZONES**, NOT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT!

LATER IN **OUTER SPACE**, ON THE DOCTOR'S **EGG STATION**, SONIC AND EGGMAN HAD THEIR **FINAL CONFRONTATION**. SONIC WAS FAST ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE DOCTOR'S **GIANT MECH** AND RETURN HOME SAFE AND SOUND.

BUT AS ONE ADVENTURE CLOSES, ANOTHER BEGINS...

DID YOU KNOW...

"SONIC 4 EPISODE I" was the first Sonic title ever in the main series to be released strictly as a digital downloadable title! Who would've known that 16 years after "Sonic & Knuckles'" release that Sonic would be making his 2D saga return in the form of digital distribution? Cartridges to digital data, now that's progress at Sonic Speed!

EXCLUSIVE COMIC PROLOGUE

TIME FOR A COMEBACK
WRITER: IAN FLYNN - PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY!
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN - COLORS: MATT HERMS
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO
EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO
SPECIAL THANKS TO ANTHONY GACCIONE, CINDY CHAU, MIA PUTRINO, AND KEN BALOUGH AT SEGA LICENSING
IN ANOTHER TIME, IN ANOTHER PLACE...
THE E.G.G. STATION...
RRRR ARGH! HOLD STILL!
C'MON, DOC! STEP IT UP! YOU'RE TOO SLOW!
OLÉ!
SLAM!
AAAAAAND WE'RE DONE! NICE TRY, DOC!
NO!
BOOM

WHOOPS... LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE LOAD-BEARING BOSSES. I HOPE TAILS HAS MY RIDE READY...
BINGO! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON HIM.
SOON...
SONIC! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK SAFE AND SOUND! DID YOU BEAT DOCTOR EGGMAN AGAIN?
OF COURSE I DID. THANKS FOR THE RIDE, BUD.
ANYTIME. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO TIRED FOR ONE MORE ADVENTURE?
NEVER! WHAT'S UP?
LITTLE PLANET IS ABOUT TO MAKE ITS ANNUAL RETURN!

LITTLE PLANET... NOW THAT WAS A WILD ADVENTURE...
"THAT'S WHERE I FIRST MET AMY ROSE, DOCTOR EGGMAN WAS AFTER THE TIME STONES, AND HE BROUGHT ALONG HIS MOST ADVANCED BADNIK...
"...METAL SONIC! I GOTTA ADMIT, OF ALL THE ROBOTS I'VE FACED, NOTHING WAS AS FAST OR AS DANGEROUS OR AS COOL-LOOKING AS THAT.
"I MANAGED TO WIN THE RACE AND SAVE AMY, BUT I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF IT'D GO THE SAME WAY IN A REMATCH."

IT'S ALMOST TOO BAD IT GOT TOTALED BACK THEN...
...HELLO? SONIC? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH? OH, NOTHING! JUST TOOK A QUICK JOG DOWN MEMORY LANE, I GUESS.
HEH HEH. ALL RIGHT...
SONIC! OUR LITTLE ANIMAL BUDDIES LOOK WORRIED.
THEY SURE DO. THAT LOOK CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING.
...DR. EGGMAN IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN? SO SOON?
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT SPACE STATION OF HIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING. DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH. WE'VE GOT THIS!
AND SO...
LEAD THE WAY, GUYS! WE'LL STOP WHATEVER NONSENSE THE DOC'S UP TO THIS TIME.
AND YOU CAN COUNT ME IN! I'M NOT MISSING ANOTHER ADVENTURE!

MEANWHILE...
THAT'S IT, MY LOVELY ROBOTS! BRING ME MORE ANIMALS TO MAKE EVEN MORE BADNIKS!
06:20:12
PICK YOURSELF UP, DUST YOURSELF OFF, AND GET BACK TO WORK! SONIC IS AS BIG A PAIN AS EVER, AND YOU'RE JUST THE ROBOT TO STOP HIM...
...MY METAL SONIC!
LITTLE PLANET HAS RETURNED-- AND SO HAS THE DREADED METAL SONIC! WHAT IS DR. EGGMAN'S NEWEST SCHEME? WILL SONIC AND TAILS STOP IT IN TIME? FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF BY PLAYING SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 4 EPISODE II ON YOUR PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, OR MOBILE DEVICES!

BONUS PIN-UP

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG vs. METAL SONIC™

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

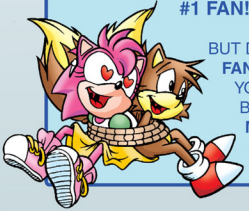
SONIC CD

PREVIOUSLY...

SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE FOUGHT THE EVIL OF **DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK** SINCE THEY WERE LITTLE KIDS -- BUT THE FACE OF **EVIL** IS CHANGING. AFTER SURVIVING THE RECENT THREATS POSED BY THE **WEEETIAN ALIEN CAR-HEEM**, TO ROBOTNIK'S EVIL "E.V.E," TO BATTLING **EVIL SONIC AND THE ANTI-FREEDOM FIGHTERS**, THE TOUGH TIMES KEEP GETTING **TOUGHER!**

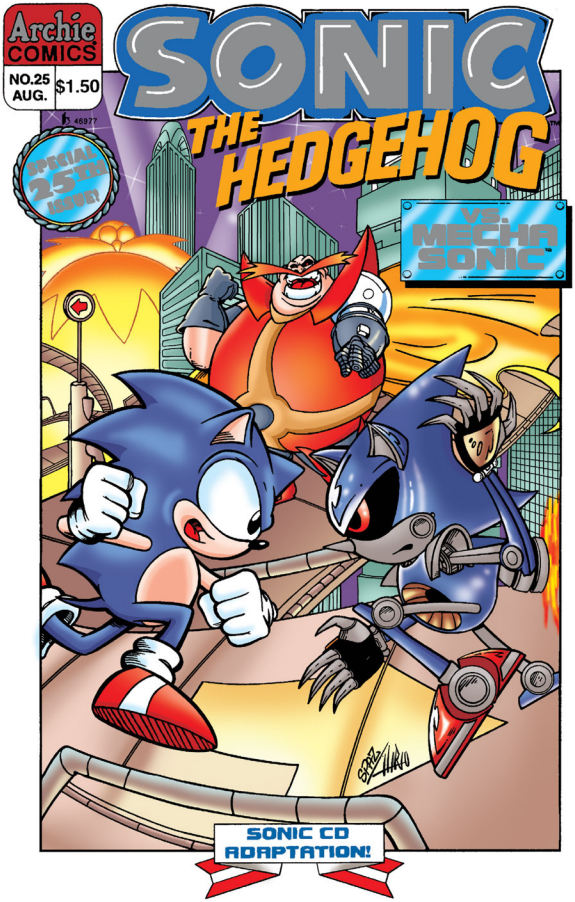
CONSTANT BATTLE HAS DONE SOME GOOD, TOO, MAKING **THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS** A MORE **EFFICIENT FORCE** FOR GOOD ON THE PLANET **MOBIUS**, AND GAINING THEM SOME WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION!

RECOGNITION **MOST NOTABLY** IN THE FORM OF LITTLE **AMY ROSE**, SONIC'S **#1 FAN!**



BUT DON'T LET THAT **FAN-PRAISE** GO TO YOUR HEAD, SONIC, BECAUSE **YOU MIGHT JUST BE ABOUT TO MEET YOUR MATCH...**

DID YOU KNOW... This story features one of the very first Sonic comics pencilled by Sonic art legend Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante! Spaz's debut in STH#21 was so huge, that Patrick went on to pencil both STH#22's cover and interiors, followed shortly by the monumental STH#25! Spaz now illustrates every single Sonic the Hedgehog commemorative issue cover!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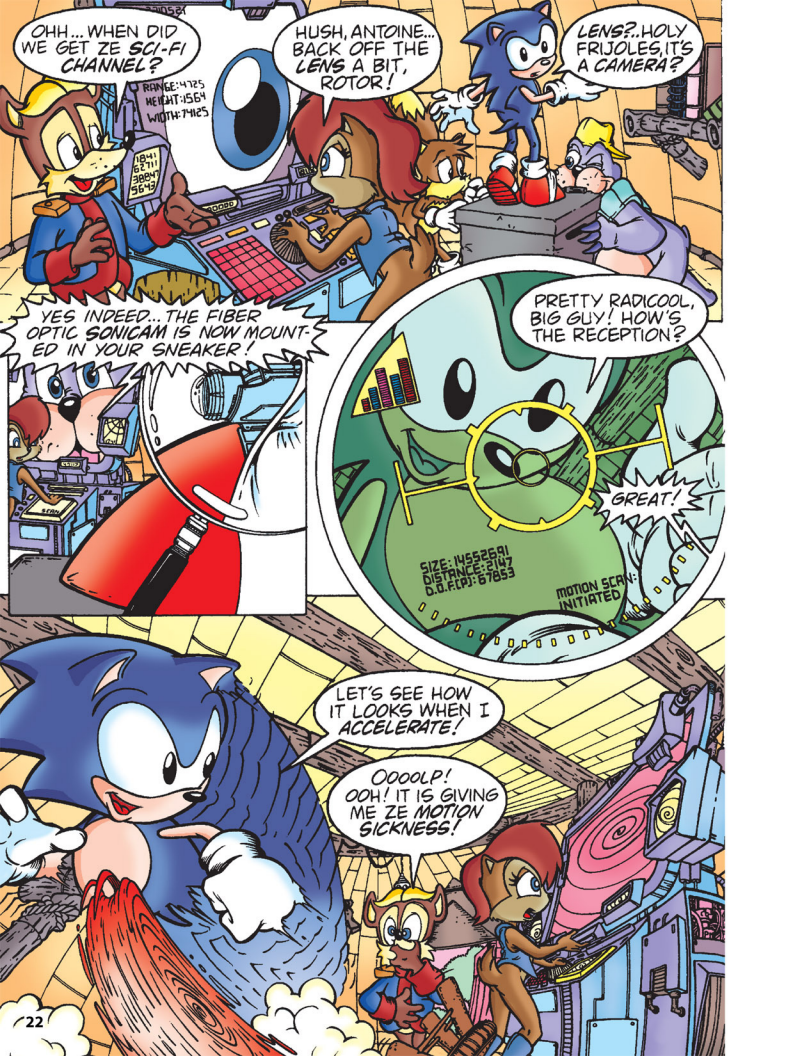
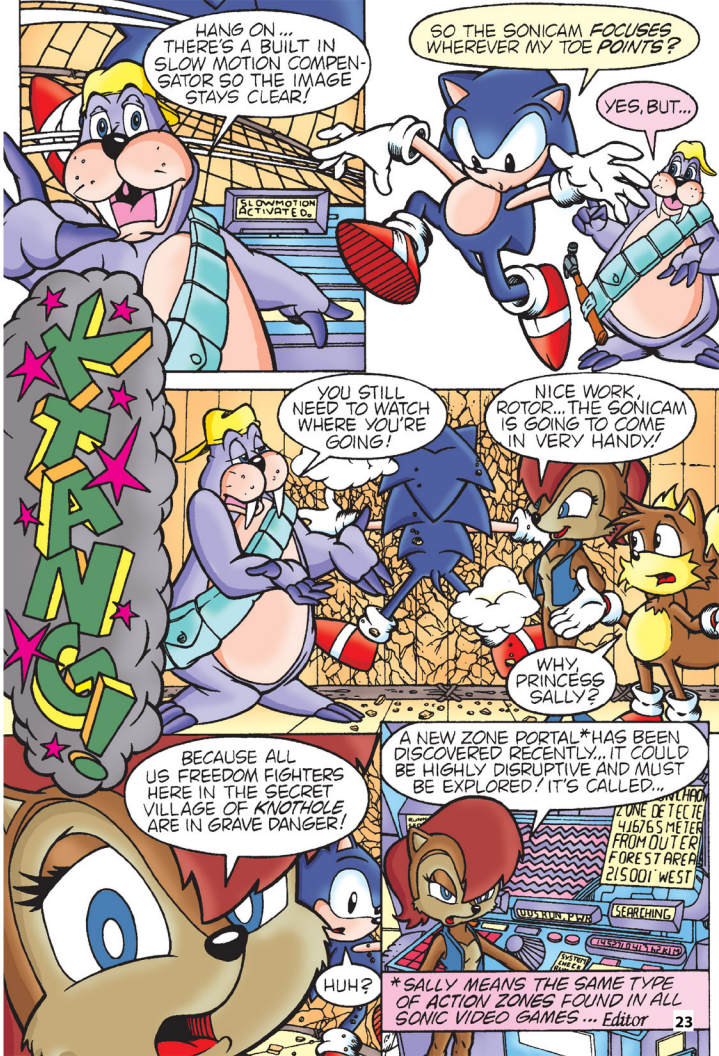
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SPECIAL 25TH ISSUE!
VS. MECHA SONIC
SONIC CD ADAPTATION!

"GO AHEAD... MECHA MY DAY!"

Script:
Mike Gallagher
Penciling:
Pat Spaziante
Inking:
Harvey Mercadoocasio
Lettering:
Mindy Eisman
Coloring:
Barry Grossman
Cover Coloring:
Heroic Age
Editor:
Scott Fulop
Managing Editor:
Victor Gorelick
Editor-In-Chief:
Richard Goldwater

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
"GO AHEAD... MECHA MY DAY!"
PART 1
WILL YOU PLEASE HOLD STILL? THIS IS A VERY DELICATE PROCEDURE!
TWO WORDS, ROTOR... BORE-RING!
IT'S STARTING TO COME IN...
AHHH...

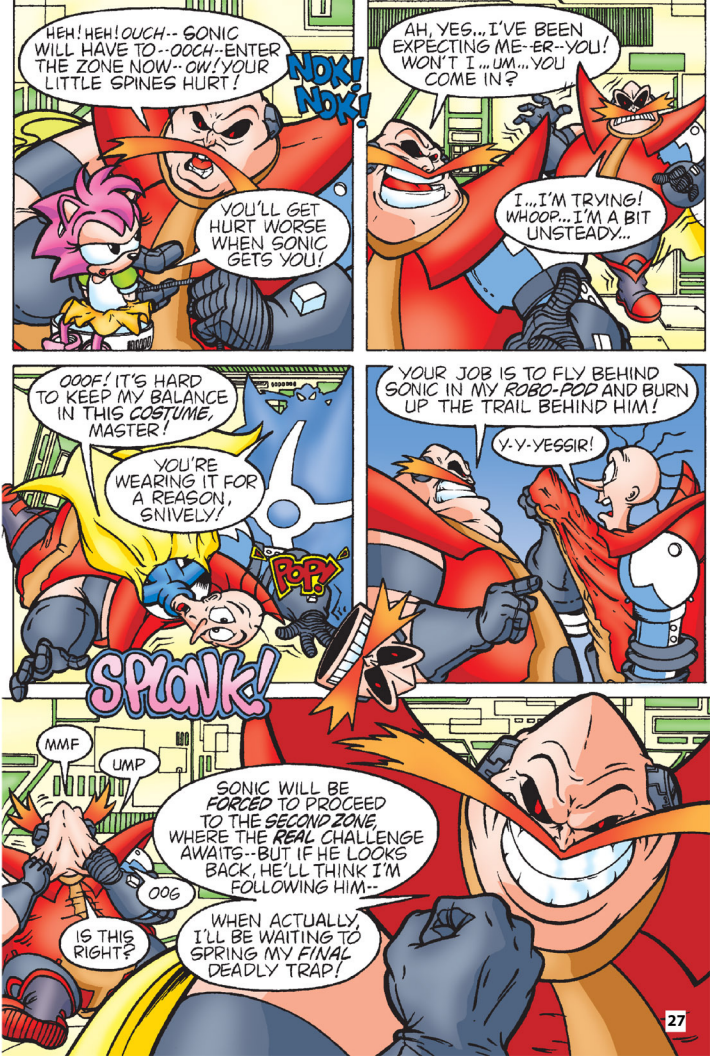

OHH... WHEN DID WE GET ZE SCI-FI CHANNEL?
RANGE: 4725
HEIGHT: 1564
WIDTH: 7485
HUSH, ANTOINE... BACK OFF THE LENS A BIT, ROTOR!
LENS?.. HOLY FRIJOLES, IT'S A CAMERA?
YES INDEED... THE FIBER OPTIC SONICAM IS NOW MOUNTED IN YOUR SNEAKER!
PRETTY RADICOOL, BIG GUY! HOW'S THE RECEPTION?
GREAT!
SIZE: 1455291
DISTANCE: 2147
D.O.F.D.): 67853
MOTION SCAN: INITIATED
LET'S SEE HOW IT LOOKS WHEN I ACCELERATE!
OOOOLP! OOH! IT IS GIVING ME ZE MOTION SICKNESS!

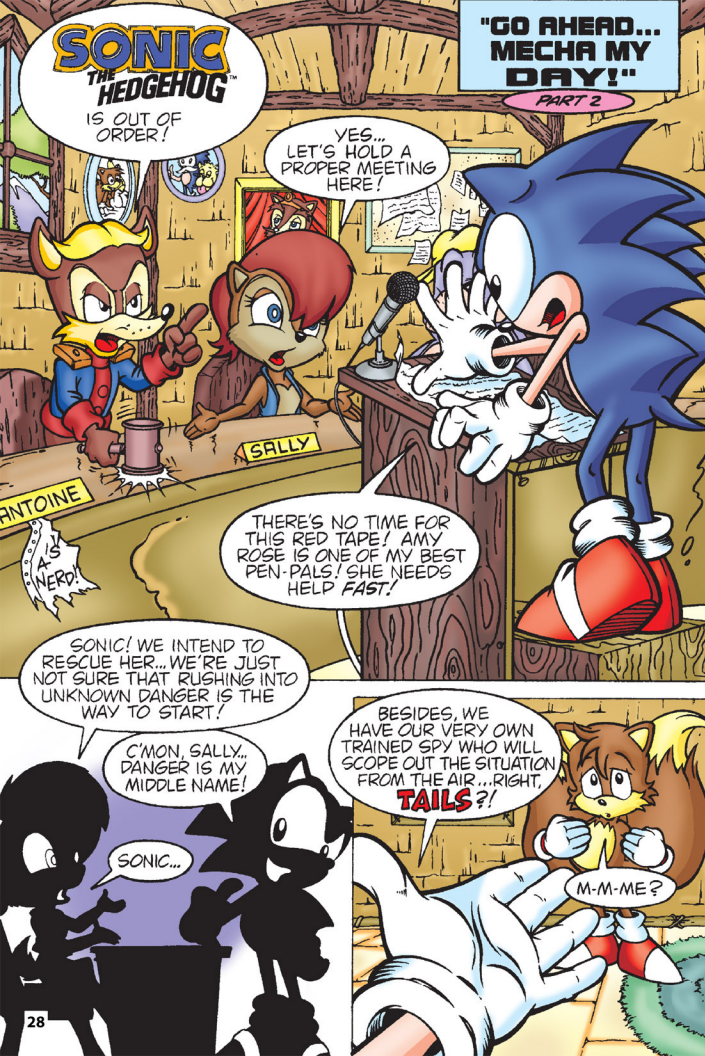

HANG ON... THERE'S A BUILT IN SLOW MOTION COMPENSATOR SO THE IMAGE STAYS CLEAR!
SLOWMOTION ACTIVATED
SO THE SONICAM FOCUSES WHEREVER MY TOE POINTS?
YES, BUT...
KRANG!
YOU STILL NEED TO WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
NICE WORK, ROTOR... THE SONICAM IS GOING TO COME IN VERY HANDY!
WHY, PRINCESS SALLY?
BECAUSE ALL US FREEDOM FIGHTERS HERE IN THE SECRET VILLAGE OF KNOTHOLE ARE IN GRAVE DANGER!
A NEW ZONE PORTAL* HAS BEEN DISCOVERED RECENTLY... IT COULD BE HIGHLY DISRUPTIVE AND MUST BE EXPLORED! IT'S CALLED...
ZONE DETECTED
4,167.5 METERS FROM OUTER FOREST AREA
215.001° WEST
SEARCHING
HUH?
*SALLY MEANS THE SAME TYPE OF ACTION ZONES FOUND IN ALL SONIC VIDEO GAMES... Editor

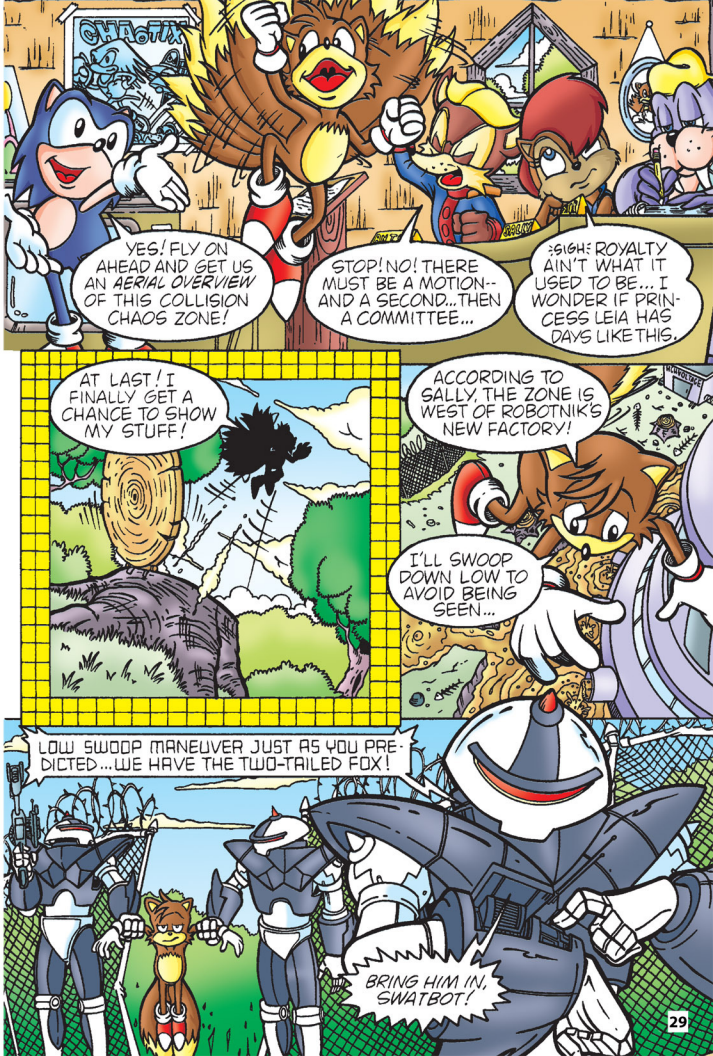
THE COLLISION CHAOS ZONE! PERHAPS MY MOST BRILLIANT CREATION TO DATE!
I, THE GREAT AND POWERFUL ROB-OZ-NIK, HAVE SPOKEN! ERRR... PAY NO ATTENTION TO THAT MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN!
CHORTLE-SNICKER-CACKLE YES, MY PET PIRANHA-BOT... I ALLOWED THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO DISCOVER THE PORTAL!
REALLY, OH OVAL ONE?
INDEED! SONIC'S EGO WON'T ALLOW HIM TO RESIST TESTING HIS SKILL IN THE "ZONE"...
BAG OF JUNK
... BUT JUST IN CASE, I'LL ENCOURAGE HIM BY MAKING USE OF THESE STOLEN SONIC-GRAM FAN LETTERS!
To: Archie COMICS
U.S. POST
WHOA! TAMPERING WITH THE MAIL IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE!
HA! THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME A SUPER-VILLAIN ON THE CUTTING EDGE!
RIIIPP

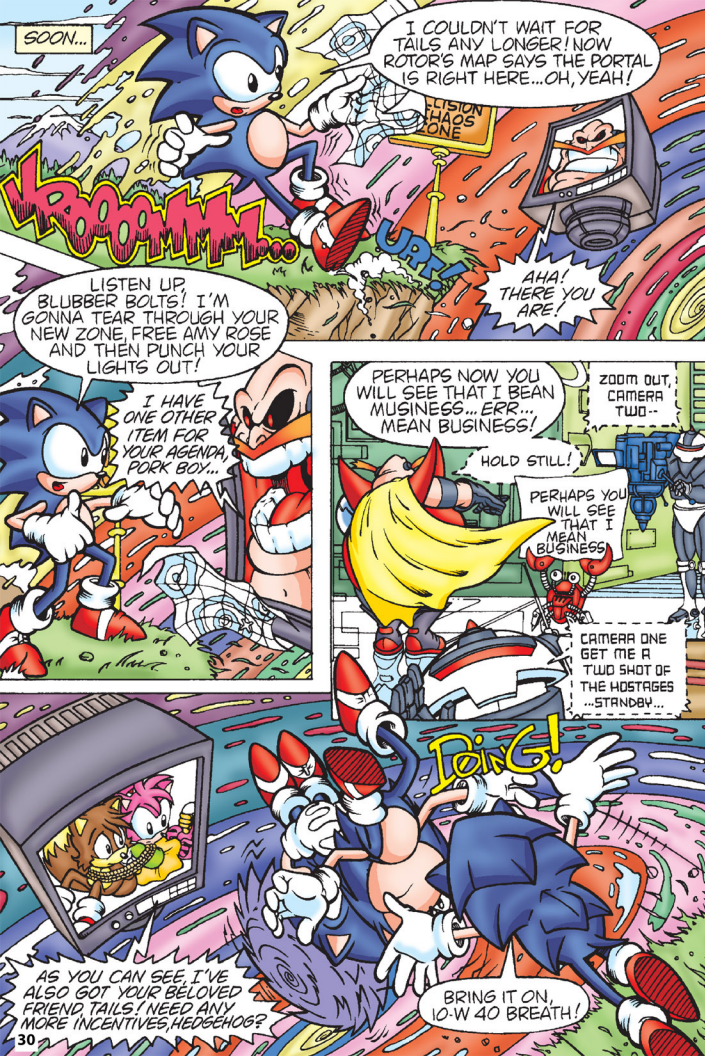
"DEAR SONIC--YOU'RE MY HERO! I LOVE IT WHEN YOU KICK ROBO-BUTT! ENCLOSED IS MY PHOTO. XXXOO-AMY ROSE..."BAH!
AWW...A CUTE LITTLE GIRLIE HEDGEHOG!
BZZZT CLANK!
WE'LL SEE HOW CUTE SHE IS WHEN SHE MEETS... HIM!
GASP! Y-YOU WOULDN'T...
OH, I WOULD AND WILL! HERE... BRING ME THE CHILD WHO LIVES AT THIS ADDRESS!
AFFIRMATIVE
GREETINGS! THIS IS YOUR LORD AND MASTER IVO ROBOTNIK!
HA! HA! NOW TO BROADCAST A MESSAGE TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS...
GOOD THING WE'VE GOT A WIDE SCREEN TV!

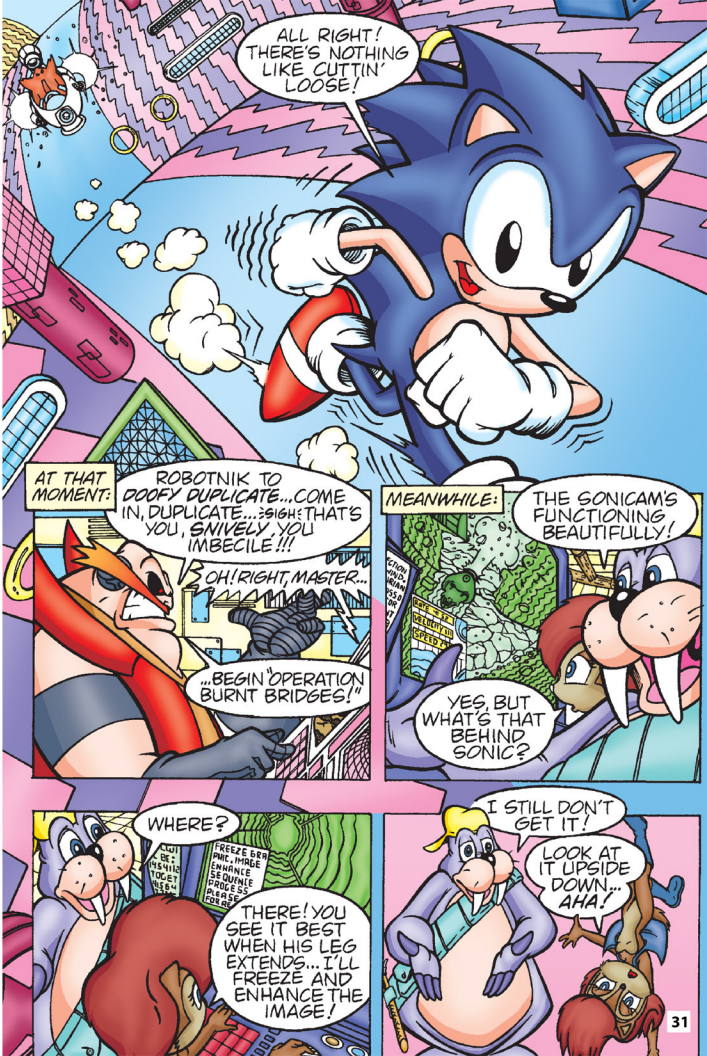
MOST AMUSING, SONIC! ALMOST AS FUNNY AS THE THOUGHT OF YOU CHICKENING OUT FROM RUNNING ON THE COLLISION CHAOS ZONE!
WHO YOU CALLING CHICKEN, FLABIO? I'M THERE!!!
NO, SONIC! IT'S A TRAP FOR SURE!
WHY, PRINCESS SALLY... ISN'T THIS A FACE YOU CAN TRUST? HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?
NO AND YES, DISRESPECTIVELY!
SURELY YOU DON'T THINK-- OH, WAIT... I'VE JUST BEEN HANDED A BULLETIN!
WHAT THE ?!..
THAT'S NO BULLETIN!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S LITTLE AMY ROSE, THE HEDGEHOG--SONIC'S BIGGEST FAN... AND MY SMALLEST HOSTAGE! SAY SOMETHING BEFORE WE SIGN OFF, CHILD!
HELP!
WHY, YOU ⁝snort⁝ OILY SONOFA ⁝woof⁝

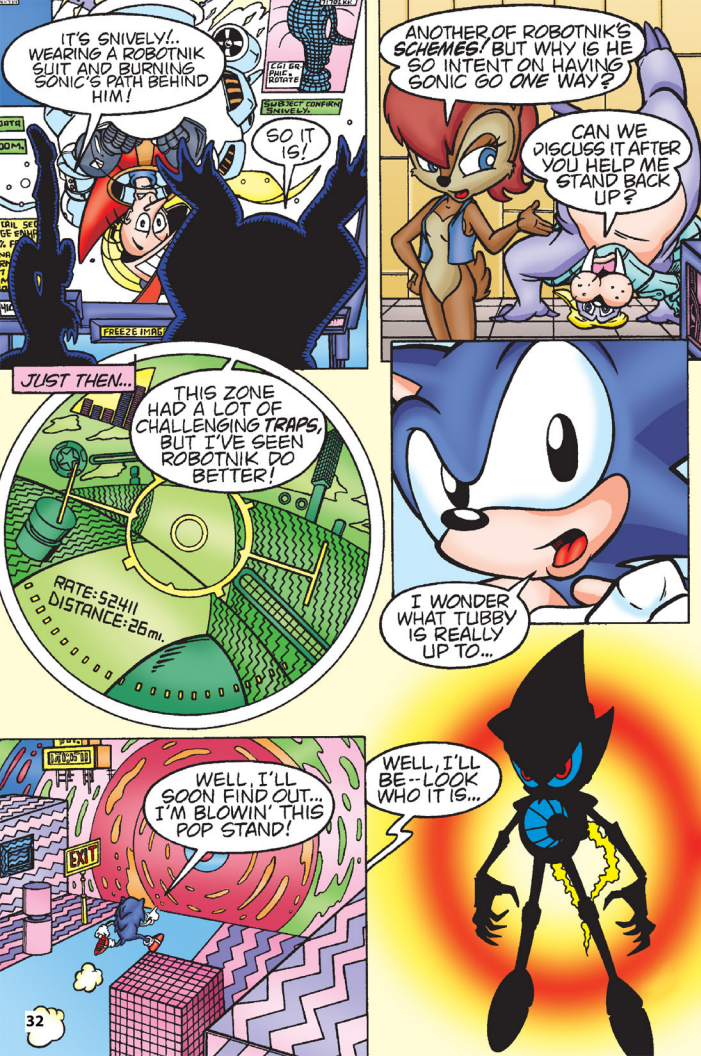

HEH! HEH! OUCH-- SONIC WILL HAVE TO--OOCH--ENTER THE ZONE NOW-- OW! YOUR LITTLE SPINES HURT!
NOK! NOK!
YOU'LL GET HURT WORSE WHEN SONIC GETS YOU!
AH, YES... I'VE BEEN EXPECTING ME--ER--YOU! WON'T I... UM... YOU COME IN?
I... I'M TRYING! WHOOP... I'M A BIT UNSTEADY...
OOOF! IT'S HARD TO KEEP MY BALANCE IN THIS COSTUME, MASTER!
YOU'RE WEARING IT FOR A REASON, SNIVELY!
POP!
SPLONK!
YOUR JOB IS TO FLY BEHIND SONIC IN MY ROBO-POD AND BURN UP THE TRAIL BEHIND HIM!
Y-Y-YESSIR!
MMF
UMP
SONIC WILL BE FORCED TO PROCEED TO THE SECOND ZONE, WHERE THE REAL CHALLENGE AWAITS--BUT IF HE LOOKS BACK, HE'LL THINK I'M FOLLOWING HIM--
OOG
IS THIS RIGHT?
WHEN ACTUALLY, I'LL BE WAITING TO SPRING MY FINAL DEADLY TRAP!

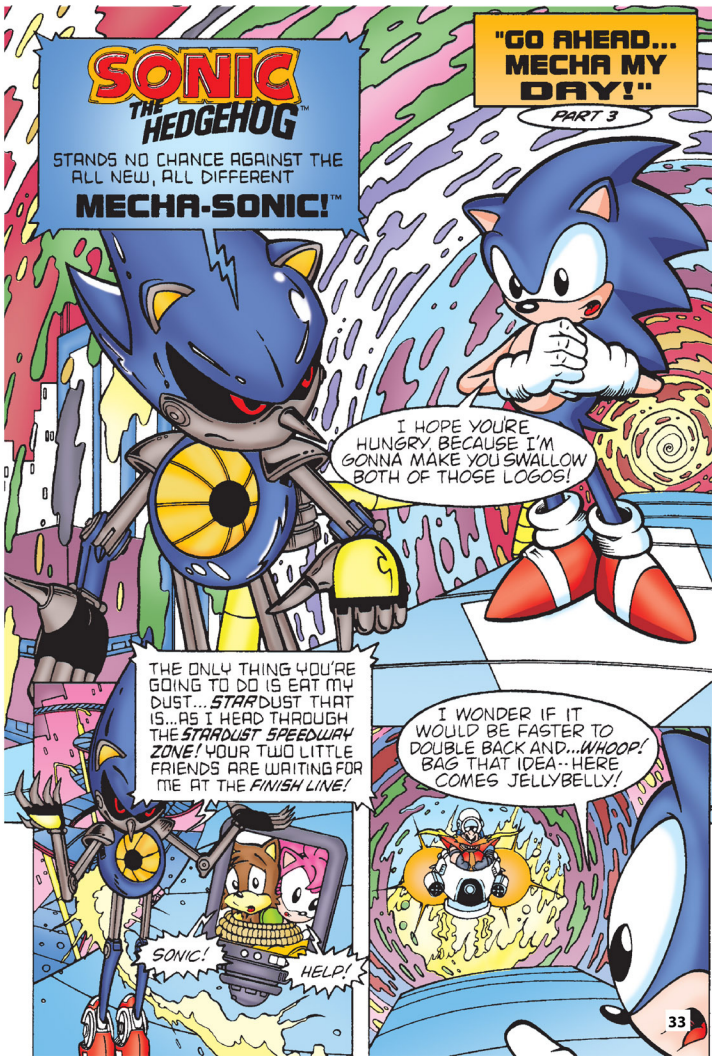

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
"GO AHEAD... MECHA MY DAY!"
PART 2
IS OUT OF ORDER!
YES... LET'S HOLD A PROPER MEETING HERE!
SALLY
ANTOINE
IS A NERD!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS RED TAPE! AMY ROSE IS ONE OF MY BEST PEN-PALS! SHE NEEDS HELP FAST!
SONIC! WE INTEND TO RESCUE HER... WE'RE JUST NOT SURE THAT RUSHING INTO UNKNOWN DANGER IS THE WAY TO START!
C'MON, SALLY... DANGER IS MY MIDDLE NAME!
SONIC...
BESIDES, WE HAVE OUR VERY OWN TRAINED SPY WHO WILL SCOPE OUT THE SITUATION FROM THE AIR... RIGHT, TAILS?!
M-M-ME?

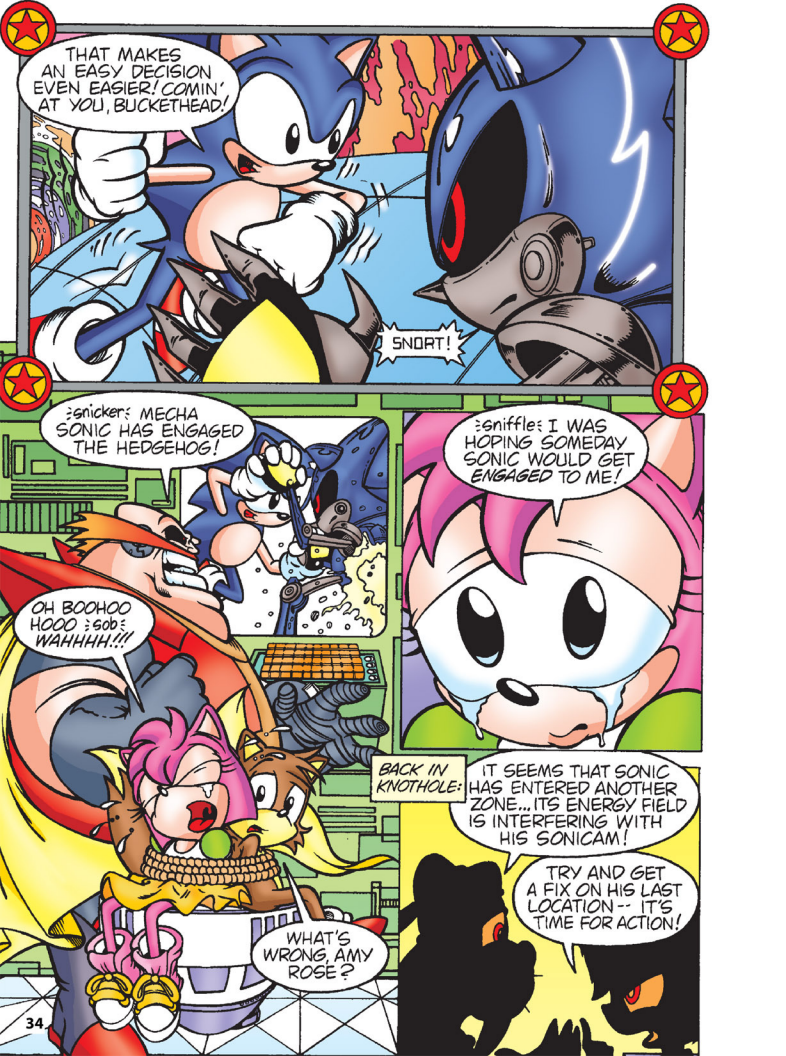

CHAOTIX
YES! FLY ON AHEAD AND GET US AN *AERIAL OVERVIEW* OF THIS COLLISION CHAOS ZONE!
STOP! NO! THERE MUST BE A MOTION-- AND A SECOND...THEN A COMMITTEE...
:SIGH: ROYALTY AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE... I WONDER IF PRINCESS LEIA HAS DAYS LIKE THIS.
AT LAST! I FINALLY GET A CHANCE TO SHOW MY STUFF!
ACCORDING TO SALLY, THE ZONE IS WEST OF ROBOTNIK'S NEW FACTORY!
I'LL SWOOP DOWN LOW TO AVOID BEING SEEN...
LOW SWOOP MANEUVER JUST AS YOU PREDICTED...WE HAVE THE TWO-TAILED FOX!
BRING HIM IN, SWATBOT!


SOON...
I COULDN'T WAIT FOR TAILS ANY LONGER! NOW ROTOR'S MAP SAYS THE PORTAL IS RIGHT HERE...OH, YEAH!
-LISION HAOS ZONE
VROOOMM...
URT!
AHA! THERE YOU ARE!
LISTEN UP, BLUBBER BOLTS! I'M GONNA TEAR THROUGH YOUR NEW ZONE, FREE AMY ROSE AND THEN PUNCH YOUR LIGHTS OUT!
I HAVE ONE OTHER ITEM FOR YOUR AGENDA, PORK BOY...
PERHAPS NOW YOU WILL SEE THAT I BEAN MUSINESS... ERR... MEAN BUSINESS!
ZOOM OUT, CAMERA TWO--
HOLD STILL!
PERHAPS YOU WILL SEE THAT I MEAN BUSINESS
CAMERA ONE GET ME A TWO SHOT OF THE HOSTAGES ...STANDBY...
DOING!
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE ALSO GOT YOUR BELOVED FRIEND, TAILS! I NEED ANY MORE INCENTIVES, HEDGEHOG?
BRING IT ON, LO-W 40 BREATH!

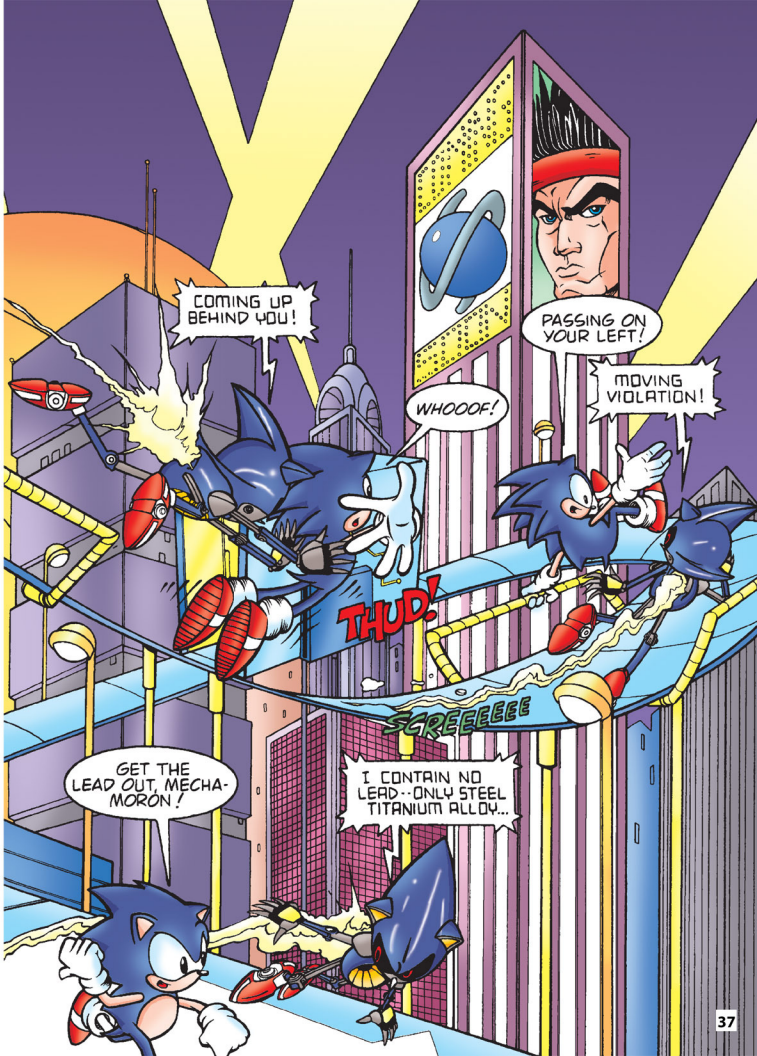

ALL RIGHT! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE CUTTIN' LOOSE!
AT THAT MOMENT:
ROBOTNIK TO DOOFY DUPLICATE...COME IN, DUPLICATE...:SIGH: THAT'S YOU, SNIVELY, YOU IMBECILE!!!
OH! RIGHT, MASTER...
...BEGIN "OPERATION BURNT BRIDGES!"
MEANWHILE:
THE SONICAM'S FUNCTIONING BEAUTIFULLY!
YES, BUT WHAT'S THAT BEHIND SONIC?
WHERE?
THERE! YOU SEE IT BEST WHEN HIS LEG EXTENDS... I'LL FREEZE AND ENHANCE THE IMAGE!
I STILL DON'T GET IT!
LOOK AT IT UPSIDE DOWN... AHA!

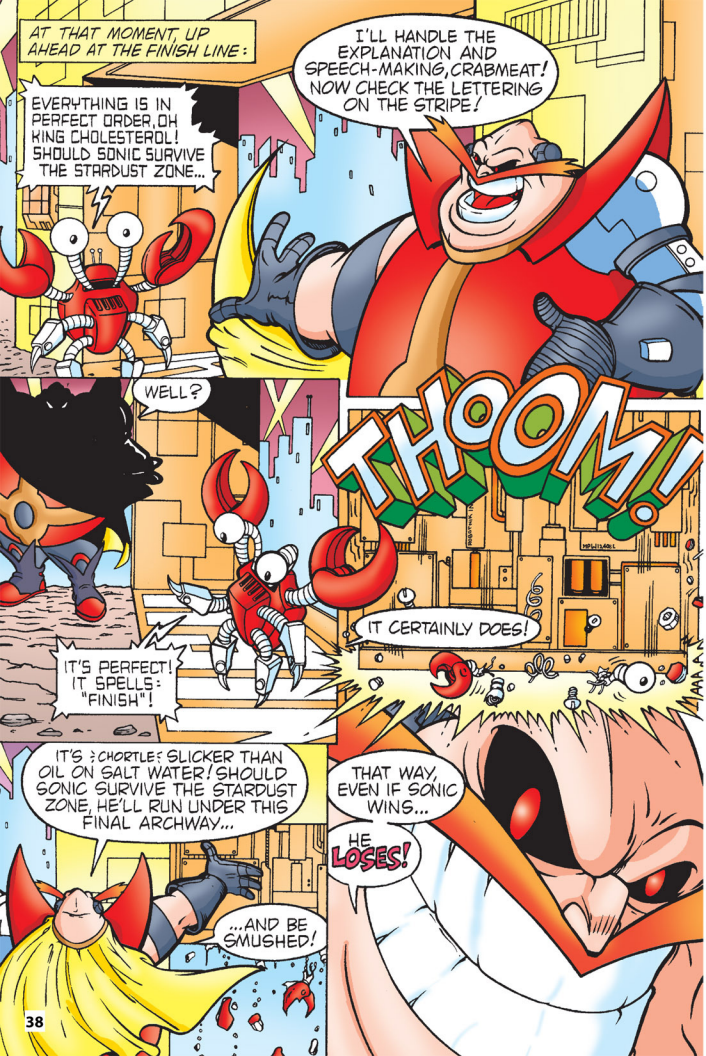

IT'S SNIVELY!.. WEARING A ROBOTNIK SUIT AND BURNING SONIC'S PATH BEHIND HIM!
SO IT IS!
FREEZE IMAG
ANOTHER OF ROBOTNIK'S SCHEMES! BUT WHY IS HE SO INTENT ON HAVING SONIC GO ONE WAY?
CAN WE DISCUSS IT AFTER YOU HELP ME STAND BACK UP?
I WONDER WHAT TUBBY IS REALLY UP TO...
JUST THEN...
THIS ZONE HAD A LOT OF CHALLENGING TRAPS, BUT I'VE SEEN ROBOTNIK DO BETTER!
RATE: 524 H
DISTANCE: 26 mi.
WELL, I'LL SOON FIND OUT... I'M BLOWIN' THIS POP STAND!
EXIT
WELL, I'LL BE--LOOK WHO IT IS...

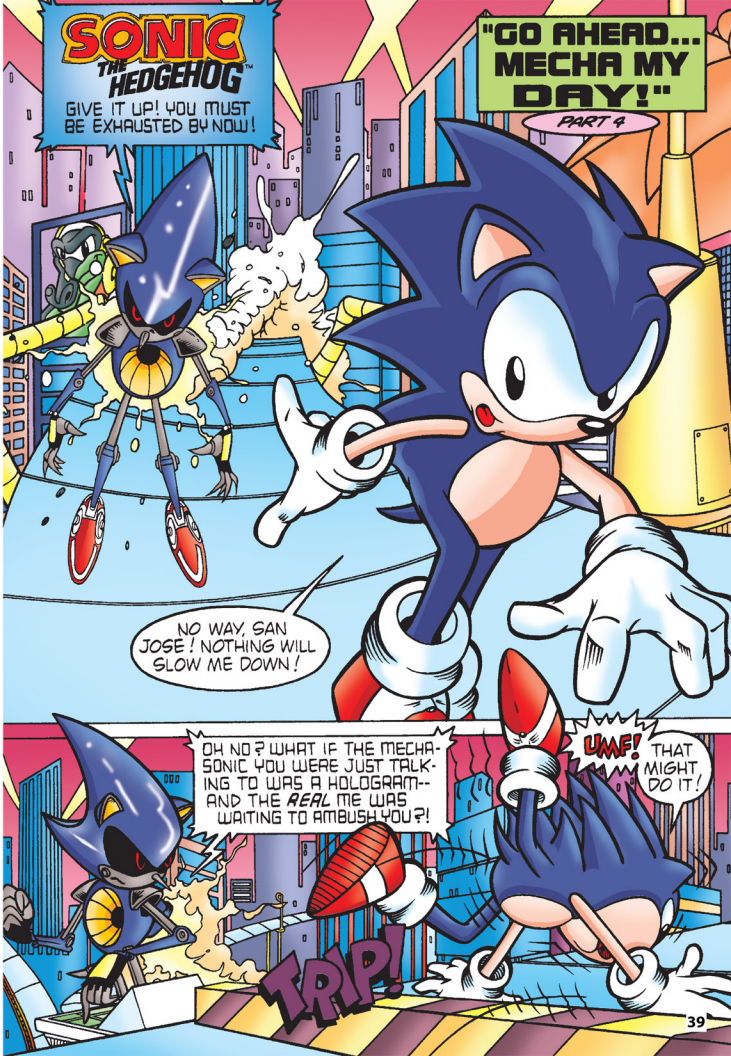

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
STANDS NO CHANCE AGAINST THE ALL NEW, ALL DIFFERENT
MECHA-SONIC!™
"GO AHEAD... MECHA MY DAY!"
PART 3
I HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY BECAUSE I'M GONNA MAKE YOU SWALLOW BOTH OF THOSE LOGOS!
THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS EAT MY DUST... STARDUST THAT IS... AS I HEAD THROUGH THE STARDUST SPEEDWAY ZONE! YOUR TWO LITTLE FRIENDS ARE WAITING FOR ME AT THE FINISH LINE!
I WONDER IF IT WOULD BE FASTER TO DOUBLE BACK AND... WHOOP! BAG THAT IDEA-- HERE COMES JELLYBELLY!
SONIC!
HELP!

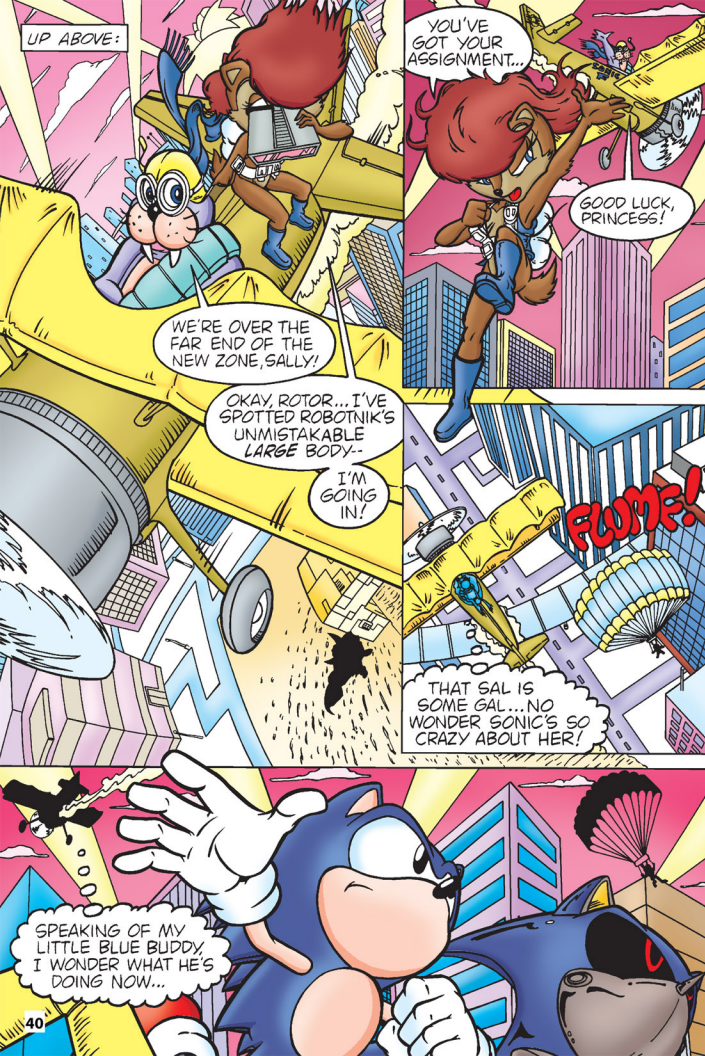

THAT MAKES AN EASY DECISION EVEN EASIER! COMIN' AT YOU, BUCKETHEAD!
SNORT!
:snicker: MECHA SONIC HAS ENGAGED THE HEDGEHOG!
:sniffle: I WAS HOPING SOMEDAY SONIC WOULD GET ENGAGED TO ME!
OH BOOHOO HOOO :sob: WAHHHH.!!!
BACK IN KNOTHOLE:
IT SEEMS THAT SONIC HAS ENTERED ANOTHER ZONE... ITS ENERGY FIELD IS INTERFERING WITH HIS SONICAM!
TRY AND GET A FIX ON HIS LAST LOCATION -- IT'S TIME FOR ACTION!
WHAT'S WRONG, AMY ROSE?

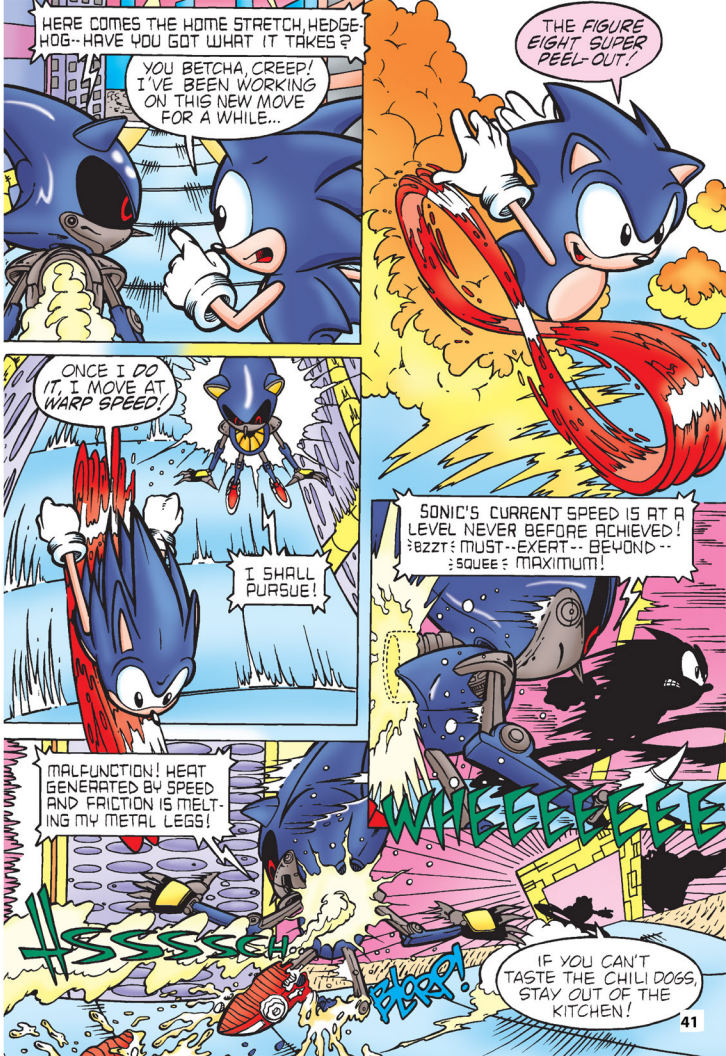
AND IN THE STARDUST SPEEDWAY ZONE . . .
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I GET A JUMP ON YOU, METALHEAD!
BWOING!
SORRY...THIS IS A ONE-LANE EXIT RAMP...


COMING UP BEHIND YOU!
PASSING ON YOUR LEFT!
MOVING VIOLATION!
WHOOOF!
THUD!
SCREEEEEE
GET THE LEAD OUT, MECHA-MORON!
I CONTAIN NO LEAD--ONLY STEEL TITANIUM ALLOY...

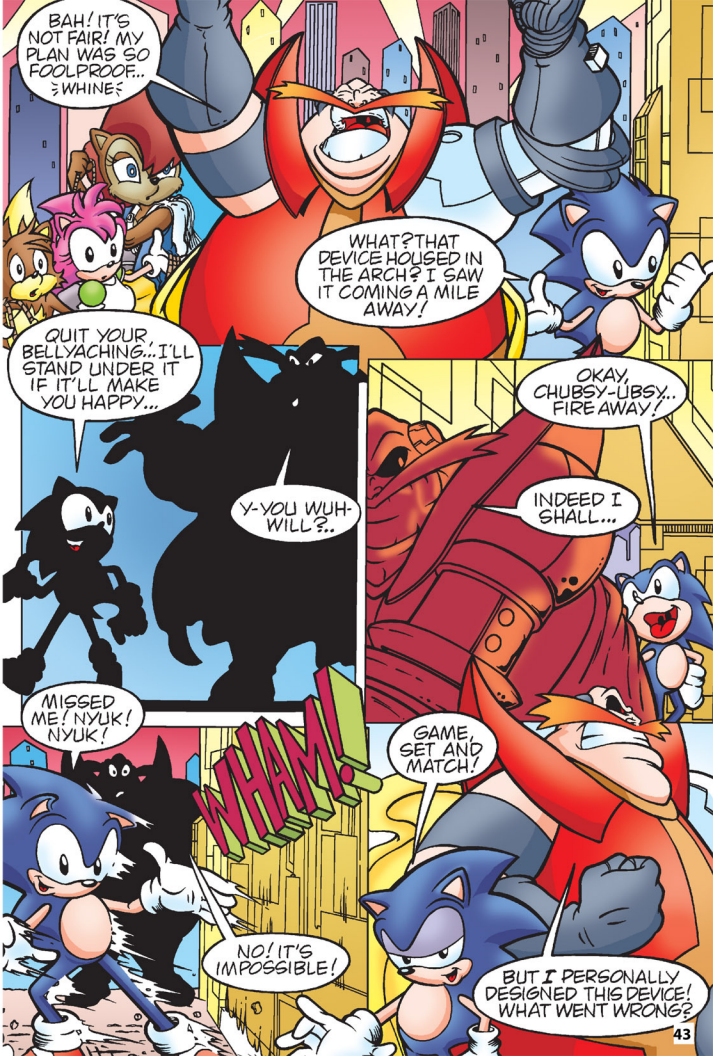

AT THAT MOMENT, UP AHEAD AT THE FINISH LINE:
EVERYTHING IS IN PERFECT ORDER, OH KING CHOLESTEROL! SHOULD SONIC SURVIVE THE STARDUST ZONE...
I'LL HANDLE THE EXPLANATION AND SPEECH-MAKING, CRABMEAT! NOW CHECK THE LETTERING ON THE STRIPE!
WELL?
THOOM!
IT CERTAINLY DOES!
IT'S PERFECT! IT SPELLS: "FINISH"!
IT'S :CHORTLE: SLICKER THAN OIL ON SALT WATER! SHOULD SONIC SURVIVE THE STARDUST ZONE, HE'LL RUN UNDER THIS FINAL ARCHWAY...
THAT WAY, EVEN IF SONIC WINS...
HE LOSES!
...AND BE SMUSHED!

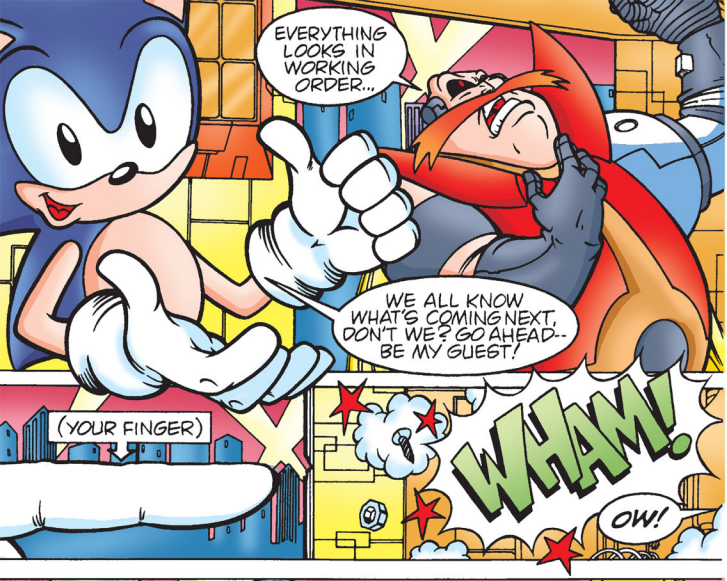

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
GIVE IT UP! YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED BY NOW!
"GO AHEAD... MECHA MY DAY!"
PART 4
NO WAY, SAN JOSE! NOTHING WILL SLOW ME DOWN!
OH NO? WHAT IF THE MECHA-SONIC YOU WERE JUST TALKING TO WAS A HOLOGRAM--AND THE REAL ME WAS WAITING TO AMBUSH YOU?!
UMF!
THAT MIGHT DO IT!
TRIP!


UP ABOVE:
WE'RE OVER THE FAR END OF THE NEW ZONE, SALLY!
OKAY, ROTOR... I'VE SPOTTED ROBOTNIK'S UNMISTAKABLE LARGE BODY--
I'M GOING IN!
YOU'VE GOT YOUR ASSIGNMENT...
GOOD LUCK, PRINCESS!
FLUME!
THAT SAL IS SOME GAL... NO WONDER SONIC'S SO CRAZY ABOUT HER!
SPEAKING OF MY LITTLE BLUE BUDDY, I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING NOW...


HERE COMES THE HOME STRETCH, HEDGEHOG--HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?
YOU BETCHA, CREEP! I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS NEW MOVE FOR A WHILE...
THE FIGURE EIGHT SUPER PEEL-OUT!
ONCE I DO IT, I MOVE AT WARP SPEED!
I SHALL PURSUE!
SONIC'S CURRENT SPEED IS AT A LEVEL NEVER BEFORE ACHIEVED! BZZT MUST--EXERT-- BEYOND-- SQUEE MAXIMUM!
MALFUNCTION! HEAT GENERATED BY SPEED AND FRICTION IS MELTING MY METAL LEGS!
WHEEEEEEEE
HSSSSSCH
BEEP!
IF YOU CAN'T TASTE THE CHILI DOGS, STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN!

SURRENDER, SNIVELY!
OKAY, OKAY!
WHOP!
UMF! OH NO! SONIC WENT THROUGH THE ARCH--I MISSED MY CHANCE!
GET AWAY FROM THAT BUTTON, ROBOTNIK!
YES! THE CROWD GOES WILD!
MY HERO!
OUR HERO!


BAH! IT'S NOT FAIR! MY PLAN WAS SO FOOLPROOF... ;WHINE;
WHAT? THAT DEVICE HOUSED IN THE ARCH? I SAW IT COMING A MILE AWAY!
QUIT YOUR BELLYACHING... I'LL STAND UNDER IT IF IT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY...
Y-YOU WUH-WILL?..
OKAY, CHUBSY-UBSY... FIRE AWAY!
INDEED I SHALL...
MISSED ME! NYUK! NYUK!
WHAM!
GAME, SET AND MATCH!
NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT I PERSONALLY DESIGNED THIS DEVICE! WHAT WENT WRONG?


EVERYTHING LOOKS IN WORKING ORDER...
WE ALL KNOW WHAT'S COMING NEXT, DON'T WE? GO AHEAD-- BE MY GUEST!
(YOUR FINGER)
WHAM!
OW!

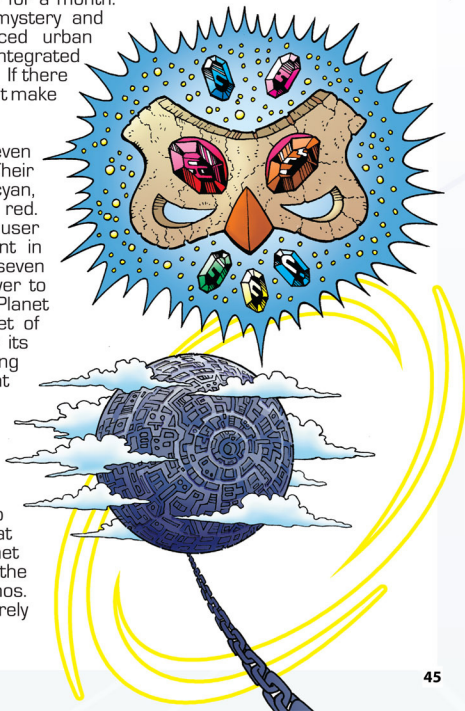
SONIC and FRIENDS
25 ISSUES AND GOING STRONG!
SONIC
STAY TUNED..WE'RE JUST WARMING UP!
I HATE THAT HEDGEHOG!
THE END

PROFILE: TIME STONES & LITTLE PLANET

Little Planet, sometimes called "Miracle Planet," is a tiny planetoid that appears over Never Lake once a year for a month. Little Planet is steeped in mystery and hosts a number of advanced urban settings that are perfectly integrated with their local environments. If there is anyone living there, they don't make themselves known.

Little Planet hosts the seven hexagonal Time Stones. Their colors are blue, green, cyan, orange, purple, yellow and red. Possessing one allows the user to move to almost any point in time at will. Collecting all seven is rumored to grant the power to reshape time itself. Little Planet was a closely guarded secret of Albion and watched over by its steward, the latest being King Rob 'o the Hedge, so the threat of invaders is low.

There are rumors of other protectors of the Time Stones. Some say a great and powerful owl spirit, Nicholas O'Tyme, decides who may use them. Others say that an elite few guard Little Planet throughout time and go by the name of the Knights of Kronos. Whether these are true or merely rumors remains to be seen.



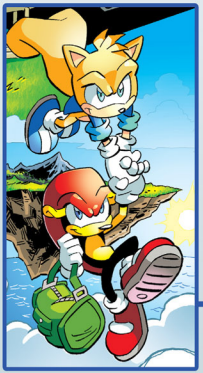
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

REIGNING CATS AND DOGS

PREVIOUSLY...

UPON THE DEFEAT OF **THE EVIL IRON DOMINION**, THE CITIZENS OF **NEW MOBOTROPOLIS** FIND THEMSELVES STILL PICKING UP THE PIECES OF THEIR SHATTERED CITY.

BATTLE SCARS AREN'T THE ONLY DAMAGES IN NEED OF HEALING, AS **PRINCESS SALLY** HAS PARTED WAYS WITH HER NEWEST SWEETHEART, **MONKEY KHAN**.



THE AFTERMATH EXTENDS TO THE CHAOTIX, TOO, AS MIGHTY AND RAY HAVE LEFT THE TEAM TO INVESTIGATE THEIR HERITAGE.

AS THE HEALING BEGINS, **THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS** NOW LOOK BEYOND THEIR CITY WALLS TO CATCH UP WITH AND PROVIDE **DAMAGE CONTROL** FOR THE OTHER **HEROES** AROUND THE WORLD. FIRST STOP?

THE WOLFPACK NATION...

DID YOU KNOW...

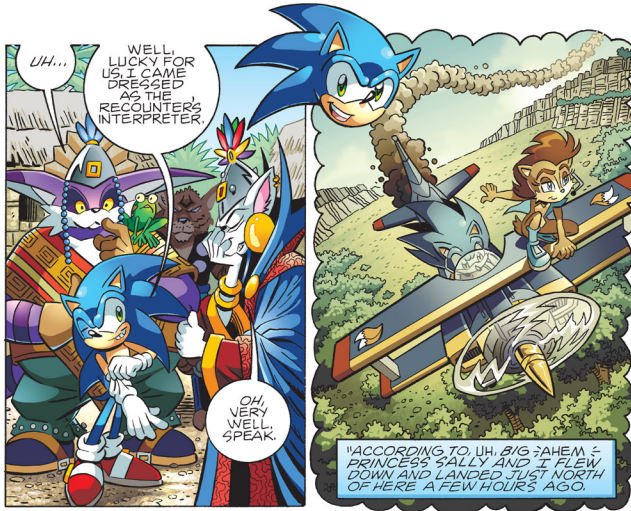
This is the first appearance of the Wolfpack nation, and the series' first glimpse of Lupe and her team in years! Designing the Wolfpack nation is artist Steven Butler, who used the illustrations he did for the forthcoming Sonic Comic Encyclopedia as a basis for the entire set piece design! Coincidentally, Steven also designed the Mysterious Cat country, but did so almost 150 issues prior in STH#80.

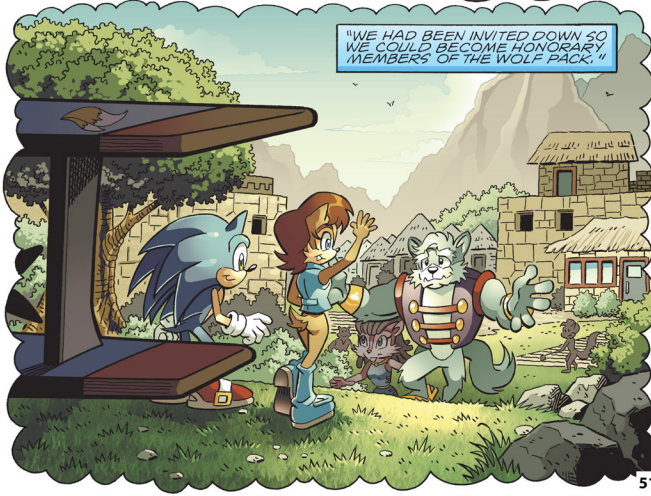
ARCHIECOMICS.COM
SONIC
SEGA
Tracy Yardley!

WELCOME TO THE PLANET MOBIUS--A WORLD UNIQUE AND BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE SEGA GAMES! WHERE SONIC AND THE HEROIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL! WITH DOCTOR EGGMAN MISSING AND HIS CRONIES QUIET, SONIC IS OUT TO FIND NEW ADVENTURE.
REIGNING CATS AND DOGS PART ONE
IAN FLYNN-WRITER • STEVEN BUTLER-PENCILLER
TERRY AUSTIN-INKS • MATT HERMS-COLORS
JOHN WORKMAN-LETTERS • TRACY YARDLEY - COVER
ASSISTANT EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
EDITOR/MANAGING EDITOR: MIKE PELLERITO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
SPECIAL THANKS TO
CINDY CHAU AND JERRY CHU
AT SEGA LICENSING
WHOA! EASY WITH THOSE THINGS! WE COME IN PEACE!
BIG THE CAT AND FROGGY
PRINCESS SALLY ACORN FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HERO OF MOBIUS
QUEEN HATHOR LEADER OF THE FELIDAE
LUPE WOLF WOLF PACK LEADER

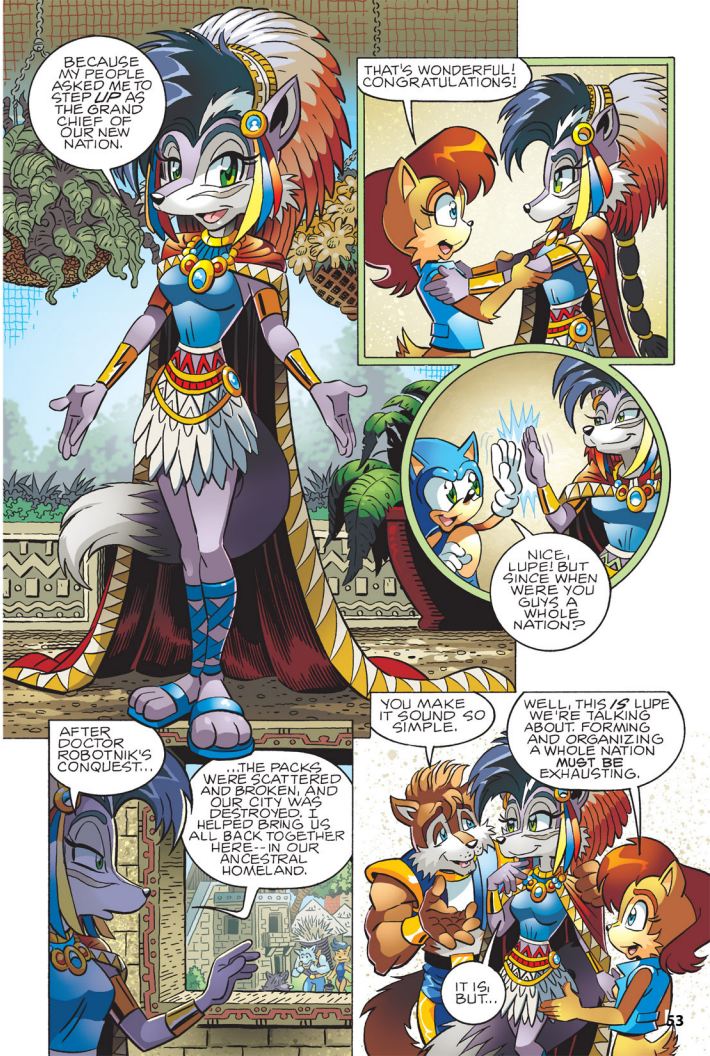
TRESPASSERS TO THE PAYS MISTERIOSO ARE NEVER WELCOME.
AH, BUT I'M NO TRES-PASSER.
I WAS INVITED BY MY BUDDY BIG HERE!
THE HEATHEN WHO LIVED ON THE OUTSKIRTS AND ASSOCIATES WITH FILTHY OUT-SIDERS?
YUP.
LOOK, LADY... I'M NOT HERE TO CAUSE TROUBLE. I'M HERE ON A MISSION OF MERCY.
AND TO GET THE "ANCIENT ONYX."
SO IT IS YOU WHO STOLE THE SACRED ARTIFACT! THE ANCIENT ONYX WAS OURS SINCE THE FORGOTTEN WARS! IT IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF OUR PEOPLE! ITS LEGENDARY POWER IS OURS!
NOT WHAT SHE NEEDED TO HEAR RIGHT NOW, BUDDY.
SORRY.

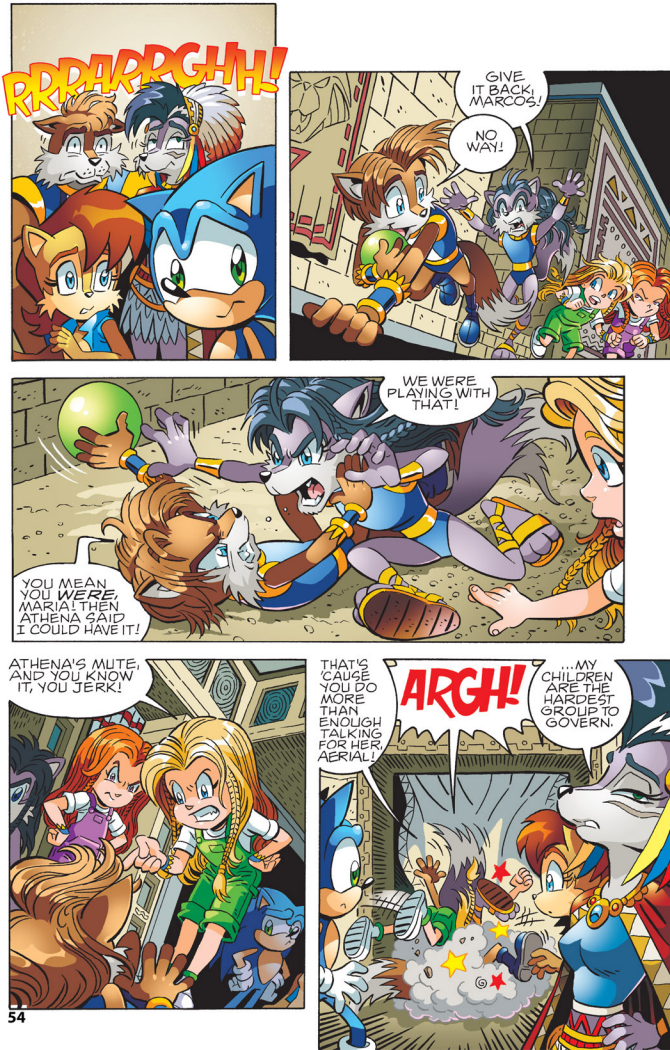
LOOK, YOUR REGAL-NESS, IT'S LIKE THIS...
SILENCE! THE FELIDAE DO NOT LISTEN TO THE LIES OF OUT-SIDERS.
WE WILL, HOWEVER, ABIDE WORDS FROM THE TRAITOR! BRING US A RECOUNTER!
WHAT'S WITH THE SUDDEN GAME OF DRESS-UP?
IT IS OUR WAY. WE USE OUR DRESS TO BECOME OUR STATION. OUR RANK. OUR VERY IDENTITIES. THIS ONE WAS BUT A LOWLY FISHERMAN...
...BUT NOW HE IS A STATELY RECOUNTER OF THE TRUTH!
!
SPROING!
RIBBIT!

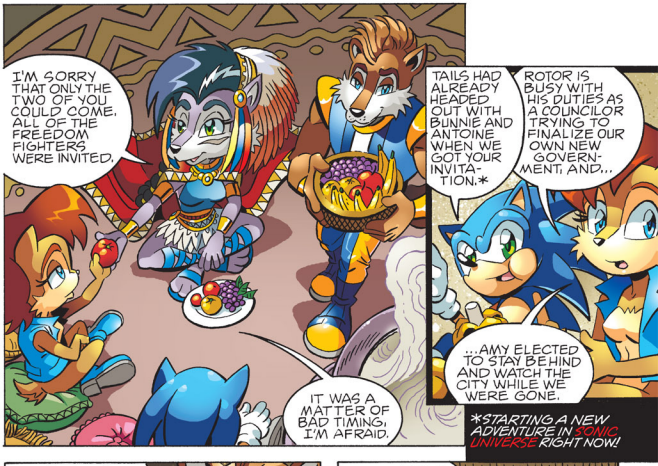

UH...
WELL, LUCKY FOR US, I CAME DRESSED AS THE RECOUNTER'S INTERPRETER.
OH, VERY WELL. SPEAK.
"ACCORDING TO, UH, BIG ;AHEM = PRINCESS SALLY AND I FLEW DOWN AND LANDED JUST NORTH OF HERE A FEW HOURS AGO.


"WE HAD BEEN INVITED DOWN SO WE COULD BECOME HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE WOLF PACK."

AND SO...
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, CANIUS!
HAPPY TO SEE YOU ARE WELL, PRINCESS!
LONG TIME, NO SEE, L-L-L-L-LYCO?
LIKE I SAID --LONG TIME, NO SEE.
LEETA.
SHE'S MY IDENTICAL TWIN. WE GET THAT A LOT.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY. THE CHIEF IS EAGER TO SEE YOU.
DITTO!
IT'S BEEN JUST AS LONG SINCE WE LAST SAW--
--LOBO ?
WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU, TOO. OF COURSE, BUT...
BUT YOU'RE CONFUSED. IT'S ALL RIGHT. Y'SEE, BEFORE I WAS ROBOTICIZED, I WAS THIS PACK'S CHIEF.
I TOOK BACK THAT TITLE WHEN MY WIFE STEPPED DOWN.
"STEPPED DOWN"?.. SINCE WHEN DID LUPE "STEP DOWN" FROM ANY-THING?
WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?

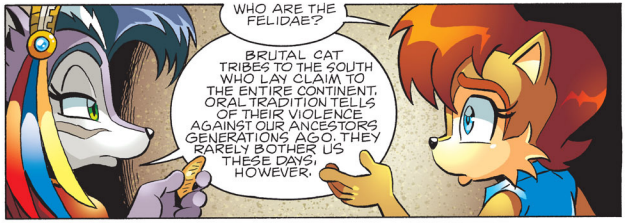

BECAUSE MY PEOPLE ASKED ME TO STEP UP AS THE GRAND CHIEF OF OUR NEW NATION.
THAT'S WONDERFUL! CONGRATULATIONS!
NICE, LUPE! BUT SINCE WHEN WERE YOU GUYS A WHOLE NATION?
AFTER DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S CONQUEST...
...THE PACKS WERE SCATTERED AND BROKEN, AND OUR CITY WAS DESTROYED. I HELPED BRING US ALL BACK TOGETHER HERE--IN OUR ANCESTRAL HOMELAND.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO SIMPLE.
WELL, THIS IS LUPE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. FORMING AND ORGANIZING A WHOLE NATION MUST BE EXHAUSTING.
IT IS, BUT...


RRRRARRGHH!
GIVE IT BACK, MARCOS!
NO WAY!
WE WERE PLAYING WITH THAT!
YOU MEAN YOU *WERE*, MARIA! THEN ATHENA SAID I COULD HAVE IT!
ATHENA'S MUTE, AND YOU KNOW IT, YOU JERK!
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU DO MORE THAN ENOUGH TALKING FOR HER, AERIAL!
ARGH!
...MY CHILDREN ARE THE HARDEST GROUP TO GOVERN.


I'M SORRY THAT ONLY THE TWO OF YOU COULD COME. ALL OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE INVITED.
IT WAS A MATTER OF BAD TIMING, I'M AFRAID.
TAILS HAD ALREADY HEADED OUT WITH BUNNIE AND ANTOINE WHEN WE GOT YOUR INVITATION.*
ROTOR IS BUSY WITH HIS DUTIES AS A COUNCILOR TRYING TO FINALIZE OUR OWN NEW GOVERNMENT, AND...
...AMY ELECTED TO STAY BEHIND AND WATCH THE CITY WHILE WE WERE GONE.
*STARTING A NEW ADVENTURE IN SONIC UNIVERSE RIGHT NOW!

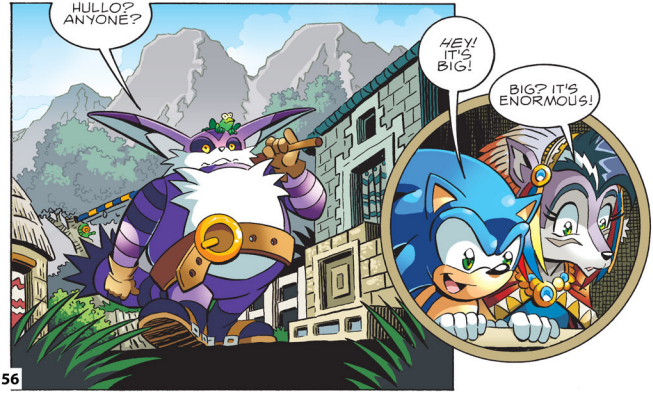
PERHAPS IT IS FOR THE BEST. YOUR INDUCTION WILL HAVE TO BE INFORMAL SINCE NO ONE CAN FIND THE CEREMONIAL IANCIENT ONYX" RIGHT NOW.

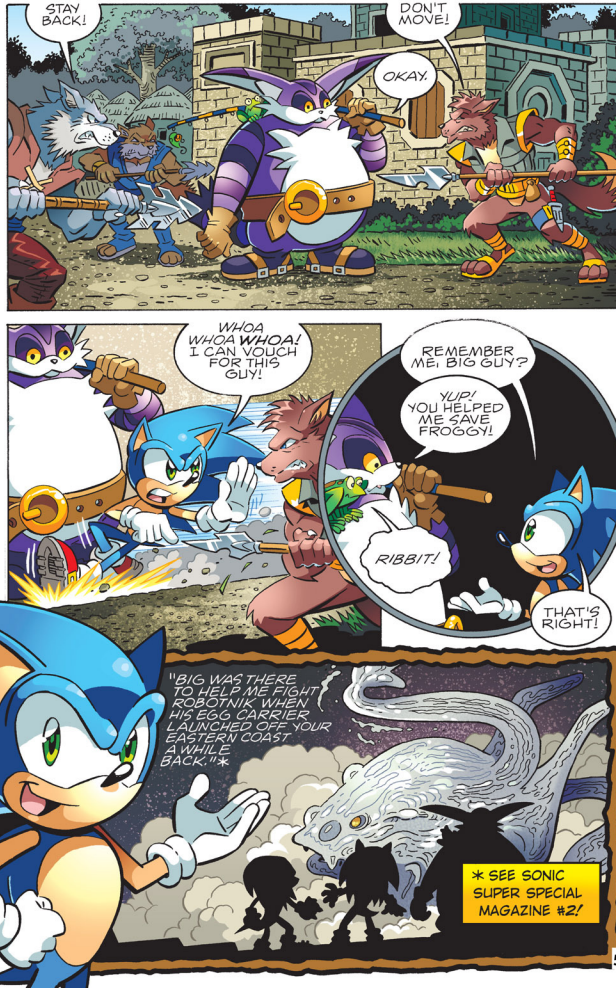
NO DOUBT IT WAS STOLEN BY THE GREEDY, SAVAGE FELIDAE.
MMMM...

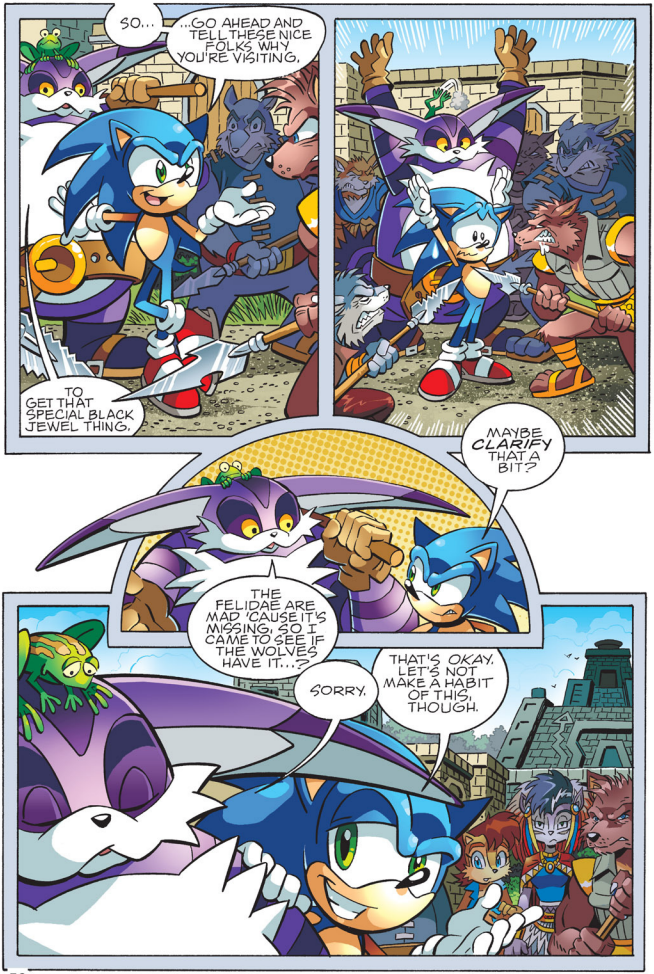

WHO ARE THE FELIDAE?
BRUTAL CAT TRIBES TO THE SOUTH WHO LAY CLAIM TO THE ENTIRE CONTINENT. ORAL TRADITION TELLS OF THEIR VIOLENCE AGAINST OUR ANCESTORS GENERATIONS AGO. THEY RARELY BOTHER US THESE DAYS, HOWEVER.

MOM! MOM! FELIDAE WARRIOR!
HE'S MARCHING RIGHT INTO THE CITY!

WHO WOULD DARE TO INVADE US ALONE?


HULLO? ANYONE?
HEY! IT'S BIG!
BIG? IT'S ENORMOUS!


STAY BACK!
DON'T MOVE!
OKAY.
WHOA WHOA WHOA! I CAN VOUCH FOR THIS GUY!
REMEMBER ME, BIG GUY?
YUP! YOU HELPED ME SAVE FROGGY!
RIBBIT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
"BIG WAS THERE TO HELP ME FIGHT ROBOTNIK WHEN HIS EGG CARRIER LAUNCHED OFF YOUR EASTERN COAST A WHILE BACK."*
* SEE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE #2!


SO...
...GO AHEAD AND TELL THESE NICE FOLKS WHY YOU'RE VISITING.
TO GET THAT SPECIAL BLACK JEWEL THING.
MAYBE CLARIFY THAT A BIT?
THE FELIDAE ARE MAD 'CAUSE IT'S MISSING, SO I CAME TO SEE IF THE WOLVES HAVE IT...?
SORRY.
THAT'S OKAY. LET'S NOT MAKE A HABIT OF THIS, THOUGH.

SO THE FELIDAE CLAIM TO NOT HAVE THE RELIC, EITHER...
HMMM...
NO OFFENSE, LUPE, BUT WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THIS ROCK?
THE ANCIENT ONYX IS SAID TO HAVE PRESERVED MY PEOPLE DURING THE DAYS OF FURY. IT IS A SYMBOL OF OUR PERSEVERANCE...
...AND IT IS OURS TO RIGHTFULLY RECLAIM.
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, GRAND CHIEF, I'D LIKE FOR US TO LOOK INTO THIS FURTHER.
OF COURSE YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT, BUT WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
WE NEED THAT ROCK TO DO THAT CEREMONY PROPERLY, DON'T WE? (IN ADDITION TO ALL THAT OTHER STUFF YOU JUST SAID.)
AND WE CAN ACT AS A NEUTRAL PARTY BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES.
EVER THE HEROES. VERY WELL, THEN.
SONIC, I WANT YOU TO TAKE BIG AND TALK TO THE FELIDAE. IF BIG CAN'T VOUCH FOR YOU, I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE YOURSELF.
SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I WANT TO FOLLOW UP ON SOMETHING ELSE FIRST.
"SO SAL TOOK OFF FOR WHO-KNOWS-WHERE..."

...AND THEN WE RAN INTO YOUR WELCOMING COMMITTEE. THE END!
OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE FANCY-PANTS RECOUNTER SAYS, RIGHT?
OH.
YUP!
HMMM... IF THIS IS ALL TRUE, THEN WHERE IS YOUR PRINCESS?
HONESTLY, YOUR QUEEN-SHIP...

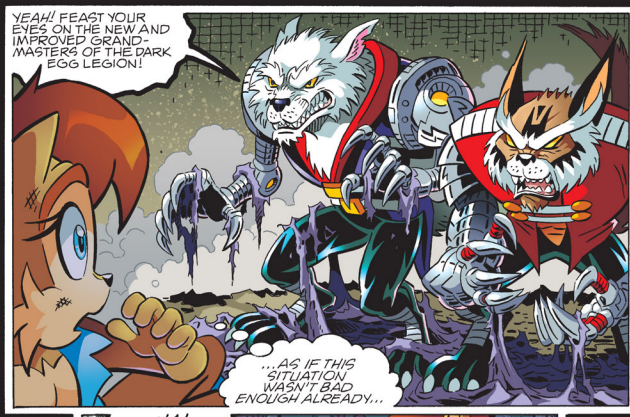
"...I HAVE NO IDEA..."
UNLESS I'M LOST, THIS SHOULD BE...
...THE RUINS OF THE FAILED ECHIDNAOPOLIS COLONY.
"ACCORDING TO KNUCKLES, THIS IS WHERE HIS DISTANT ANCESTORS FIRST TRIED TO SETTLE BEFORE MOVING ON AND REACHING WHAT WOULD BECOME ANGEL ISLAND.
"BUT THEY CAME INTO CONFLICT WITH THE FELIDAE...
"...AND THEN CHAOS."
THIS IS A PLACE OF SO MUCH LOSS ...AND SO MUCH MEANING.

THE FELIDAE AND WOLF PACK ARE MEETING AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS...
THEN AN ANCIENT ARTIFACT SACRED TO BOTH OF THEM SUDDENLY VANISHES...
...PITTING THE TWO STRONGEST FORCES IN THE REGION AGAINST EACH OTHER.
THAT'S TOO COINCIDENTAL FOR ME.
IF SOMEONE IS ORCHESTRATING THIS, WHAT BETTER HIDING PLACE THAN...
...BINGO!

ANOTHER CHAPTER OF THE DARK EGG LEGION!
THIS CLINCHES IT--THE EGGMAN EMPIRE IS TRYING TO INSTIGATE A WAR HERE!
THE FELIDAE PROBABLY WOULDN'T ENTER THIS FAR INTO THE RUINS BECAUSE IT'S TABOO!
THE WOLF PACK NATION CAN'T, BECAUSE IT'S BLOCKED OFF BY THE BORDERS OF THE PAÍS MISTERIOSO.
MAYBE WITH THIS NEWS I CAN AT LEAST BROKER TEMPORARY PEACE BETWEEN THEM AND...
HEY THERE, PRINCESS. OUT SIGHT-SEEING?
DRAGO?!

GET BACK HERE!
THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR THE PLACE FOR A FIGHT!
D'OH!
AND NOW I WISH I'D BROUGHT SONIC ALONG.
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D HAVE THE PATIENCE TO QUIETLY SNEAK AROUND WITH ME...
...HIS HELP NOW!
WHO...?!
TOUCH
...BUT I SURE COULD USE...

GET HER, RAZORKLAW!
SHRIIP!
NOT ME, YOU IDIOT!
OOPS...
I-I-I MEAN, MOVE!
SHRIIP!
RARR RRRA RRRG GHHH!
OH, NO...


YEAH! FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE NEW AND IMPROVED GRAND-MASTERS OF THE DARK EGG LEGION!
...AS IF THIS SITUATION WASN'T BAD ENOUGH ALREADY...

HA! NOWHERE TO RUN TO NOW, SWEETHEART!

WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?

SO LET'S DO THIS...
YOU'RE A BARTERER NOW?

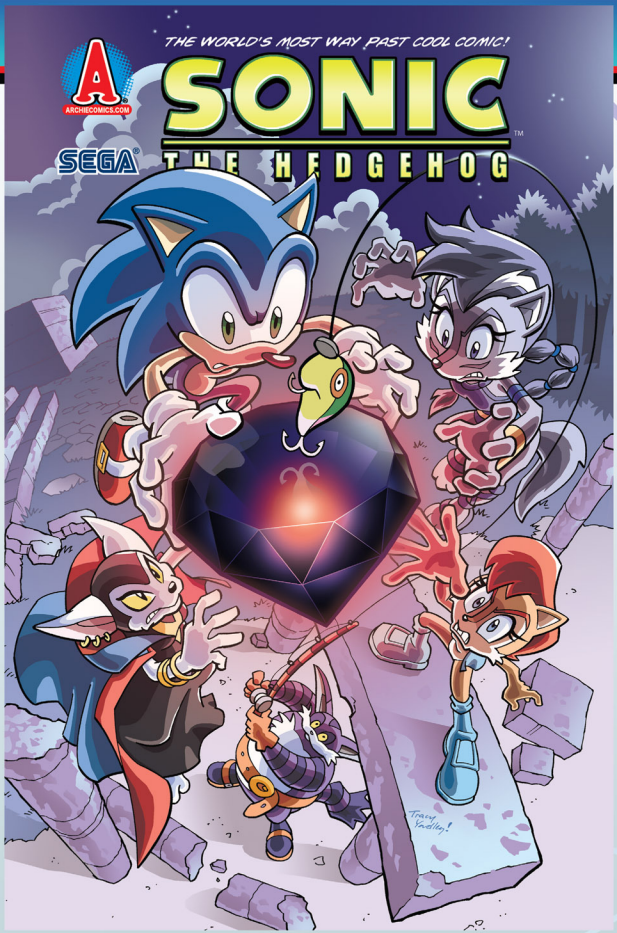
THESE ARE MY NEGOTIATOR SHOES.
FINE. GO ON.

YOU DON'T SKEWER ME, AND I'LL HELP YOU TRACK DOWN YOUR SPECIAL ROCK, FREE OF CHARGE. THEN SAL CAN PROBABLY FIGURE OUT A TIME-SHARE PLAN BETWEEN YOU AND LUPE.
DEAL?

YOU'LL HAVE MY AGREEMENT IF YOU DISPOSE OF THIS TRAITOR WHO WILLINGLY CAVORTS WITH OUTSIDERS.
?

WELL...HOW ABOUT THIS? HE CAN COME HOME WITH ME WHEN THIS IS FINISHED! CALL IT EXILE, OR WHATEVER.
EXILE? AWW...
DUDE, THERE'S SOME AWESOME RIVER FISHING UP NORTH.
FISHING! YAY!
VERY WELL THEN, BARTERER-INTERPRETER. WE HAVE AN ACCORD.
GOOD TO KNOW, QUEENIE. NOW LET'S GET TO IT BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE--
IT'S AN AMBUSH!
--HAPPENS.
OH, MAN...
TO ARMS!

HAS TIME *REALLY* RUN OUT FOR *PEACE*--- AND *PRINCESS SALLY*? CAN *SONIC* SAVE THE DAY *THIS TIME*? OR WILL *SACRIFICES* HAVE TO BE MADE? READ ON TO FIND OUT!


THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
ARCHIECOMICS.COM
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SEGA
Tracy Yardley!

WELCOME TO THE PLANET MOBIUS--A WORLD UNIQUE AND BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE SEGA GAMES! WHERE SONIC AND THE HEROIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL!
I'D SAY WE'RE...
...*CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE!!...

REIGNING CATS AND DOGS PART TWO

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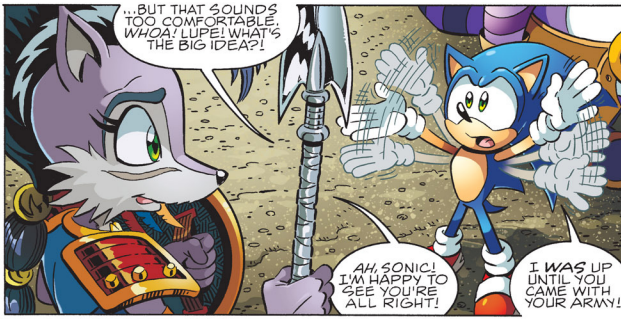
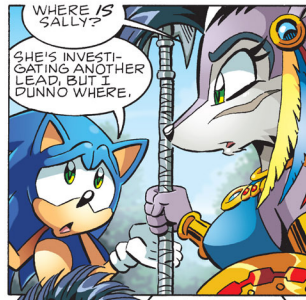

...BUT THAT SOUNDS TOO COMFORTABLE. WHOA! LUPE! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
AH, SONIC! I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
I WAS UP UNTIL YOU CAME WITH YOUR ARMY!

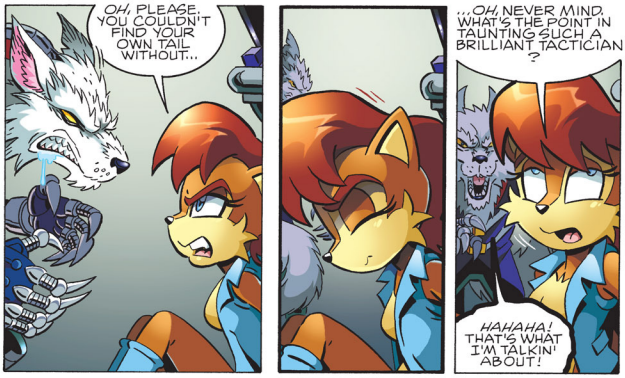
DIDN'T SALLY SAY WE'D HANDLE THIS FOR YOU?
SHE DID. BUT THE TWO OF YOU WERE GONE FOR SO LONG, I FEARED THE WORST.
WE CAME TO HELP.


WHERE IS SALLY?
SHE'S INVESTIGATING ANOTHER LEAD, BUT I DUNNO WHERE.

THEN WE CAN ASSUME SHE'S SAFE--
--AND RECLAIM THE ANCIENT ONYX WHILE WE'RE HERE!
NO, NO, NO!

SO YOU WERE DECOYS ALL ALONG! BOTH OF YOU WERE SPIES...
...FOR THE WRETCHED WOLVES!
WE WERE?
RETURN THE SACRED ARTIFACT, AND NO ONE HAS TO BE HURT TODAY.
WOULD SOMEBODY TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER?!
DROP THE PRETENSE, MONGREL! YOU HAVE THE ANCIENT ONYX! YOU WILL RETURN IT TO US!
WE HAVE TAKEN NOTHING FROM YOU THAT IS NOT RIGHTFULLY OURS.
YOU CANNOT RECLAIM LANDS YOUR FOREFATHERS ABANDONED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO!
AND YOU CANNOT CLAIM DOMINION OF LAND YOU DO NOT OCCUPY, USE, OR NEED.
IT IS NOT YOUR POSITION TO TELL US HOW TO CONDUCT OURSELVES!
I REALLY WISH SALLY WAS HERE TO DEFUSE THIS.
SHOULD I GO FIND HER FOR YOU?

"THAT'D BE A BIG HELP. NO PUN INTENDED."
WELL-WELL-WELL.
THE OH-SO-HIGH-AND-MIGHTY PRINCESS SALLY AT MY MERCY, AND WITH NO PRECIOUS FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO RESCUE HER.
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE OUTSMARTED BY DOC EGGMAN'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST GRANDMASTER?

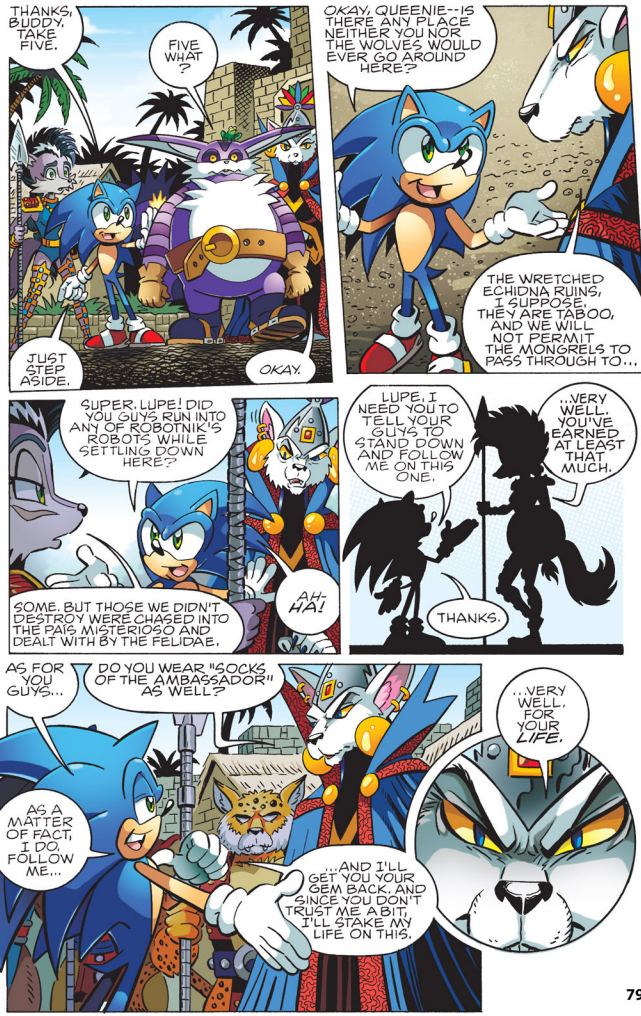

OH, PLEASE. YOU COULDN'T FIND YOUR OWN TAIL WITHOUT...
...OH, NEVER MIND. WHAT'S THE POINT IN TAUNTING SUCH A BRILLIANT TACTICIAN?
HAHAHA! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!

BUT, GEE, I THOUGHT THE DARK EGG LEGION WAS JUST ECHIDNAS.
THINK AGAIN, TOOTS. DOC EGGMAN'S BEEN "LEGIONIZING" FOLKS FOR A WHILE NOW.
HE JUST STARTED MAKING EVERYONE GO BY THAT NAME WHEN HE GOT THE DREADHEADS. I GUESS IT MAKES HIM HAPPY, OR WHATEVER.
OH, POO!
I SURE WISH I KNEW WHAT "LEGIONIZING" MEANT.
WHAT ARE YOU... DENSE?
SINCE HE CAN'T ROBOTICIZE FOLKS ANYMORE, HE GIVES THEM CYBERNETICS INSTEAD. THAT'S WHAT THE OLD DARK LEGION USED TO DO, SO HE CALLS IT "LEGIONIZING." SERIOUSLY, KEEP UP!
CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE BRAINS OF THEIR GROUP?
SINCE YOU KNOW SO MUCH, CAN YOU TELL ME WHO YOUR FRIEND IS...
...AND HOW YOU GOT YOUR SHINY NEW ARMS?
LADY, AS YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW, I KNOW EVERYTHING.

"RAZORKLAW HERE USED TO BE A BIG-SHOT FELIDAE WARRIOR.
"THEN HE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH SOME GUY NAMED LOCKE AND GOT HIS BUTT WHUPPED. *
*SEE THE CLASSIC STH#84.
"HE WAS DISGRACED AND EXILED AND ALL THAT JAZZ, SO HE HOOKED UP WITH OTHERS WHO GOT JERKED AROUND BY THE SYSTEM.
"WHEN THE DOC CAME TO TOWN, THEY WERE READY TO JOIN HIM."
ME?
I GOT TIRED OF CARRYING ALL THE WEIGHT IN THE DESTRUCTIX, SO I WENT BACK TO THE DOC FOR...
...A QUICK PROMOTION. WE'VE HAD OUR ROUGH PATCHES, BUT THE DOC KNOWS A GOOD PAL WHEN HE SEES IT.
SURE.
HOW COULD HE PASS UP SOMEONE WHO BETRAYED HIS PACK, HIS HERITAGE, HIS GIRLFRIEND AND JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE?
YOU'RE JUST AS SCUMMY AS ROBOTNIK.
HEY! I LOOK OUT FOR ME, AND THAT'S WHY I'M WHERE I AM TODAY!
AS JUST ANOTHER LACKEY.
I MEANT THAT IN A GOOD WAY!
I KNOW. SHOWS HOW SMART YOU ARE.

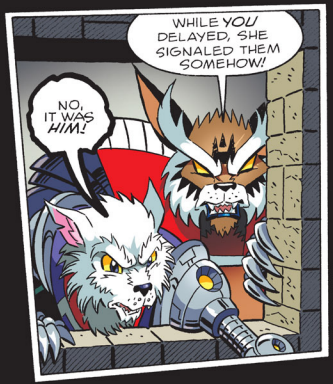
OH, I'M PLENTY SMART!
IT WAS MY IDEA TO TAKE THIS GEM EVERYONE'S SO GA-GA OVER...
...AND PIT THE TWO GROUPS AGAINST EACH OTHER!
AHEM!
OH, RIGHT...
RAZOR-KLAW HELPED, A LITTLE.
BUT I'M THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT.
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WE NEED TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU. DO WE SET YOU UP AS THE MASTER-MIND OF THIS WHOLE SCHEME...
...OR DO WE BUMP YOU OFF AND BRING NEW MOBOTROPOLIS IN FOR A NICE THREE-WAY WAR?

MEANWHILE ...
THINK, MAN, THINK!
WHAT ARE YOU MISSING HERE?
WHAT DID SALLY SEE, AND GO AFTER, THAT YOU MISSED?
...AND THE UNPROVOKED ATTACKS UPON MY PEOPLE!
UNPROVOKED ?!
WHEN WE FIRST RESETTLED HERE, YOUR WARRIORS THREW SPEARS BEFORE ANY WORDS WERE...
LOOK... SONIC'S FRIEND OR NOT--
--MOVE.
SORRY.
SONIC SAID TO STAND BETWEEN YOU TWO LIKE THIS.
YOU SAVAGES ABDUCTED MY CHILDREN!
AND YOU TOOK MY WARRIORS CAPTIVE!
THAT'S IT!
ONE FOR ONE, EYE FOR AN EYE --THAT'S THE ANGLE!


THANKS, BUDDY. TAKE FIVE.
FIVE WHAT?
JUST STEP ASIDE.
OKAY.
OKAY, QUEENIE--IS THERE ANY PLACE NEITHER YOU NOR THE WOLVES WOULD EVER GO AROUND HERE?
THE WRETCHED ECHIDNA RUINS, I SUPPOSE. THEY ARE TABOO, AND WE WILL NOT PERMIT THE MONGRELS TO PASS THROUGH TO...
SUPER. LUPE! DID YOU GUYS RUN INTO ANY OF ROBOTNIK'S ROBOTS WHILE SETTLING DOWN HERE?
SOME. BUT THOSE WE DIDN'T DESTROY WERE CHASED INTO THE PAIS MISTERIOSO AND DEALT WITH BY THE FELIDAE.
AH-HA!
LUPE, I NEED YOU TO TELL YOUR GUYS TO STAND DOWN AND FOLLOW ME ON THIS ONE.
THANKS.
..VERY WELL. YOU'VE EARNED AT LEAST THAT MUCH.
AS FOR YOU GUYS...
DO YOU WEAR "SOCKS OF THE AMBASSADOR" AS WELL?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO. FOLLOW ME...
...AND I'LL GET YOU YOUR GEM BACK. AND SINCE YOU DON'T TRUST ME A BIT, I'LL STAKE MY LIFE ON THIS.
...VERY WELL. FOR YOUR LIFE.

"COOL. NOW--WHICH WAY TO THOSE RUINS?"
SO WHICH WILL IT BE? SCAPEGOAT? MARTYR? DISGRACED? DECEASED? OH, I JUST CAN'T DECIDE!
HA HAHA HA!
THEN I DECIDE FOR YOU.
NO, YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE GOT TO TOY WITH THEM AND BREAK THEIR WILL FIRST!
YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT THIS VILLAIN THING.
AWOOOOO
NO WAY!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE--!

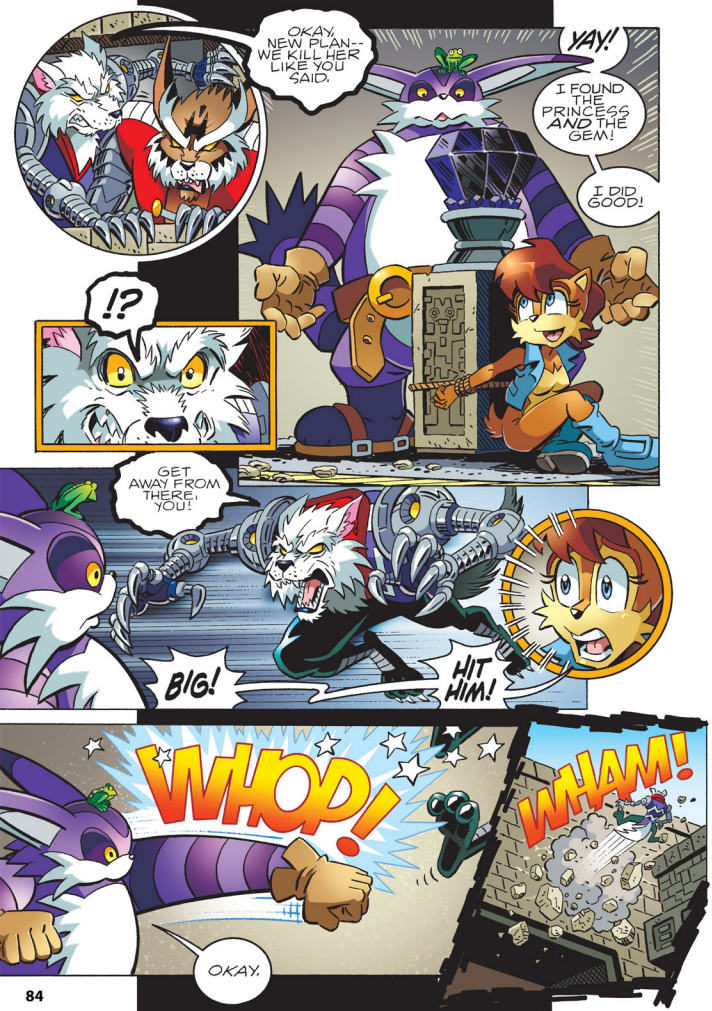
A-WOOOOOOOOOOOOOO


WHILE YOU DELAYED, SHE SIGNALED THEM SOMEHOW!
NO, IT WAS HIM!

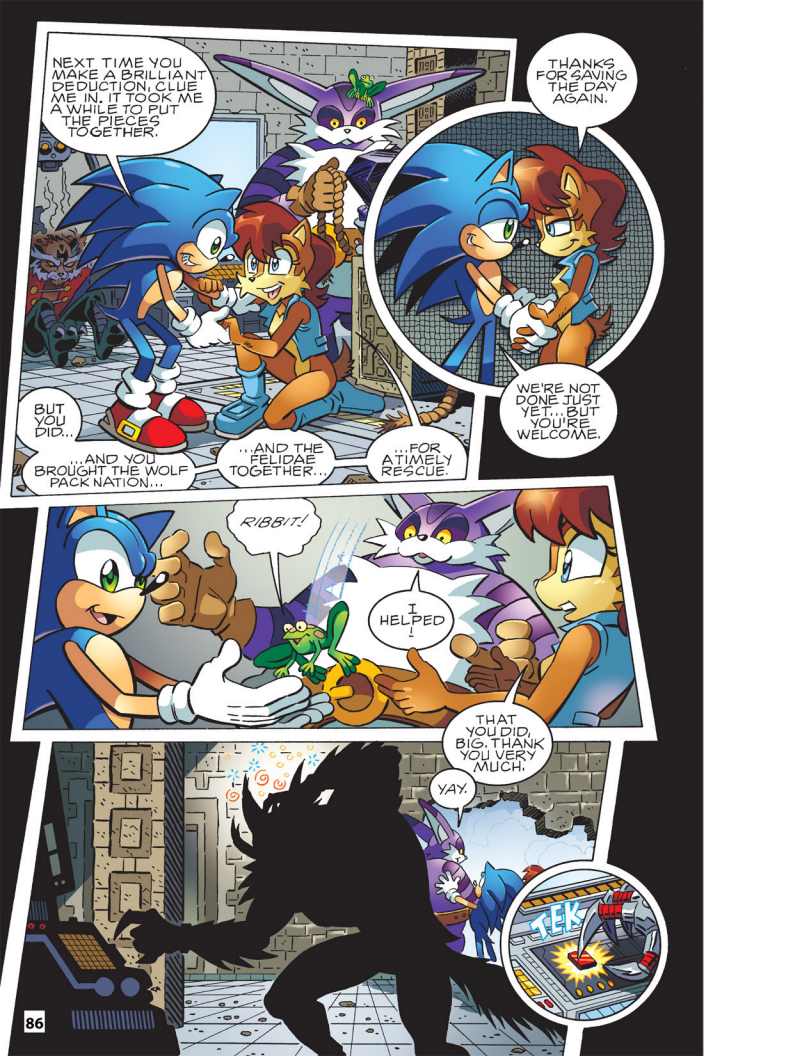
"DARK EGG LEGION," YOU SAY?
YEAH. CYBORG JERKS SPICED UP WITH A SIDE OF TREACHERY.
TREACHERY ...?

WATCH.
HOLD HIM, CANUS!
YOU! BUT WHY?
HEH. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DUMPED ME, LEETA.
I'M LYCO.
AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO TWO-TIME, TWINS.
...THERE WERE MANY UNACCOUNTED FOR AFTER THE MASS DEROBOTICIZATION. EVEN AFTER WE HAD SETTLED, SOME HAD GONE MISSING.
I HAD BLAMED THE DOCTOR OR THE FELIDAE, BUT...
SORRY TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS, LUPE.
AMUSING AS IT IS TO HAVE THE WOLVES PROVEN TREACHEROUS, IT DOES NOT JUSTIFY BRINGING THEM TO THESE CURSED GROUNDS.
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, YOUR MAJESTY.

SO EXPLAIN THIS TO ME-- IN YOUR CULTURE, WHAT YOU WEAR MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE, RIGHT?
SO WHAT DO THOSE ROBES MAKE *THEM*?
IT MAKES THEM THE VILEST OF TRAITORS!
WARRIORS! SHOW THEM NO MERCY!


OKAY. NEW PLAN-- WE KILL HER LIKE YOU SAID.
YAY!
I FOUND THE PRINCESS AND THE GEM!
I DID GOOD!
!?
GET AWAY FROM THERE, YOU!
BIG!
HIT HIM!
WHOP!
WHAM!
OKAY.

TOO HARD?
FREAK! I WILL HAVE YOUR HIDE!
UM... NO?
BACK OFF, FUZZY!
THESE GUYS ARE WITH ME!
SONIC! THERE YOU ARE!
YAY!


NEXT TIME YOU MAKE A BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, CLUE ME IN. IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER.
THANKS FOR SAVING THE DAY AGAIN.
WE'RE NOT DONE JUST YET... BUT YOU'RE WELCOME.
BUT YOU DID...
...AND YOU BROUGHT THE WOLF PACK NATION...
...AND THE FELIDAE TOGETHER...
...FOR A TIMELY RESCUE.
RIBBIT!
I HELPED!
THAT YOU DID, BIG. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YAY.
TEK

GRAND-MASTER DRAGO!
WE'RE IN TROUBLE, GRAND-MASTER! WHAT DO WE DO?
VREET
VREET
VREET
ERGH! STRATEGIC RETREAT! FALL BACK TO THE SECRET BUNKER!
GOOD IDEA, SIR!
I'M GLAD HE'S IN CHARGE!
AFTER THEM!
WAIT, LOBO!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, REYNARD? WHY NOT?!
"BECAUSE THE GRAND CHIEF SAYS SO."

THE DARK EGG LEGION HAS BEEN ROUTED...
...BUT NOT DEFEATED. WHY DO YOU MAKE US LET THEM GO?
WE CAME WITH A SMALL STRIKE FORCE, LOBO. WE AREN'T PREPARED FOR WAR. WE HAVE BROKEN THEIR HOLD ON THIS PLACE, AND STRUCK FEAR INTO THEIR HEARTS. THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
LIKE-WISE.
BUT YOU *ARE* IN THE HEART OF OUR TERRITORY. PERHAPS THERE IS STILL A BATTLE TO BE FOUGHT.
NO, THERE'S BEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH VIOLENCE TODAY.
THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE ALL HERE FOR ANYWAY, ISN'T IT?
THE ANCIENT ONYX!

THIS GEM IS MORE THAN YOUR ANCESTRAL RELIC. IT IS A SYMBOL OF PRECISELY WHAT'S HAPPENED TODAY.
WATCH THIS. SHE'S GOOD AT THIS SORT OF THING.
WITH THIS ONE ARTIFACT, YOUR TWO NATIONS WERE NEARLY PITCHED INTO WAR.
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN DESTROYING EACH OTHER WHILE YOUR REAL ENEMY WAITED IN THE SHADOWS TO ATTACK WHEN YOU WERE BOTH WEAK.
YOUR ENEMY SAW THE DIVISION BETWEEN YOU AND CAPITALIZED ON IT. THEY CAME TOGETHER AND BECAME STRONGER THAN EITHER OF YOUR NATIONS COULD HOPE TO BE ALONE.
BUT HERE TODAY, *YOU* CHOSE TO COME TOGETHER YOURSELVES.
BY SETTING ASIDE YOUR DIFFERENCES, YOU BECAME THE MIGHTIER POWER AND NOT ONLY STOPPED THE LEGION, BUT THE AMBITIONS OF THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.

HERE'S WHAT I PROPOSE...
LET THE GEM CONTINUE TO REST HERE, OUT OF BOTH YOUR HANDS. THE FELIDAE WILL LET IT REST SINCE THIS LAND IS TABOO, AND THE WOLF PACK NATION CAN RETRIEVE IT FOR EITHER GROUP WITH SUPER-VISION.
LET IT BE SHARED, AND WHEN NOT IN USE, HELD BY NO ONE AT ALL.
TOO MUCH HAS PASSED BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES IN TOO SHORT A TIME TO RECONCILE IT ALL WITH ONE GESTURE.
AGREED.
BUT IT IS A START.
IT IS, AT THAT.
AND THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE.
RIBBIT.
WOW.

THAT NIGHT...
AS IT WAS DONE GENERATIONS AGO...
...WE INDUCT THOSE WHO HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE BRAVE, SELFLESS, AND TRULY BELONGING AMONG OUR PEOPLE.
TONIGHT WE WELCOME SONIC, SALLY...
...AND BIG INTO THE WOLF PACK NATION, EQUAL BROTHERS AND SISTER ALL.
WITH THE BLESSING OF THE ANCIENT ONYX, WE RAISE OUR VOICES TO THE STARS, SO THAT THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO HAVE LEFT THIS WORLD...
...KNOW THAT THERE ARE THREE MORE AMONG US!
AWOOOOOOOOOOOO
HOORAAAY!
SONIC...
THAT LOOKS LIKE A CHAOS EMERALD. AND GIVEN HOW IMPORTANT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE...
YEAH, BUT THERE'RE ONLY SEVEN EMERALDS NOW.
I KNOW CHAOS EMERALDS.
"YOU CAN FEEL THEIR POWER. I DON'T FEEL IT HERE.
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS...
"...BUT IT'S NOT A CHAOS EMERALD."

MEANWHILE, IN NEW MOBOTROPOLIS...
...WHICH MEANS ARTICLE R NOW CONTRADICTS ARTICLE D.
SUB-SECTION B, PARAGRAPH FIVE.
UNCLE CHUCK'S
WHERE?
OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE.
CAN'T WE JUST OVERTHROW OURSELVES AND LEAVE THIS TO ELIAS?
NO.
BESIDES...
...YOU'RE GOOD AT PUTTING THINGS BACK TOGETHER.
MACHINES, SURE. I COULD BUILD YOU A VEHICLE OUT OF SPARE PARTS, BUT REVISING THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION IS A NIGHTMARE.
IT'D GO FASTER IF HAMLIN WERE HERE. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE HIM TO RUN HOME AND...
ROTOR!
ABOUT TIME. DID YOU BRING YOUR NOTES??
NEVER MIND THAT FOR A MINUTE! I JUST GOT WORD FROM THE ARCTIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
IT'S YOUR HERD!
THE DARK EGG LEGION HAS THEM!
Catsu

AND COMING SOON: WITNESS SONIC'S RETURN TO THE WOLFPACK NATION IN STH #237 ON SALE 5/30/12!

ALSO: DON'T MISS ALL OF THE AWESOME ACTION AVAILABLE NOW IN SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC ARCHIVES, AND SONIC SELECT!

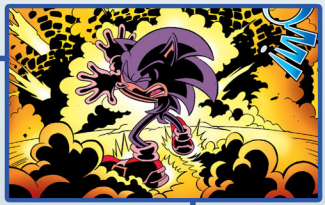
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

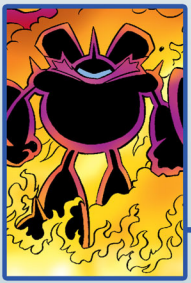
CRACKING THE EMPIRE

PREVIOUSLY...

THINGS WERE FINALLY LOOKING UP FOR **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**, WHEN **DISASTER STRUCK!** FOLLOWING THE WEDDING OF ANTOINE AND BUNNIE, THE **EVIL DR. EGGMAN** LAUNCHED HIS NEW EGG FLEET UPON OUR HEROES, CATCHING THEM OFF-GUARD AND BURNING KNOTHOLE TO THE GROUND.

AS IF THE **DESTRUCTION OF KNOTHOLE** WASN'T ENOUGH, SONIC'S FRIENDS AND FELLOW **FREEDOM FIGHTERS** HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY EGGMAN FOR **EVIL PURPOSES UNKNOWN!**





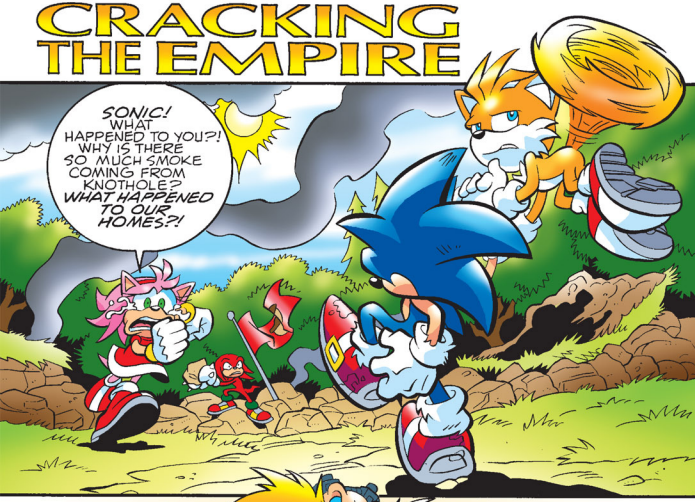
SONIC MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR A **FIGHT** WITH EGGMAN HIMSELF, BUT WHAT OUR HERO COUDN'T HAVE PREPARED FOR WAS THE **UNVEILING OF THE MOST POWERFUL BATTLE SUIT IMAGINABLE** -- THE DREADED **EGG BEATER**. SONIC HAS LOST THE BATTLE, BUT **THE WAR IS FAR FROM OVER...**

DID YOU KNOW...

Up until this point, the character Charmy Bee, member of the Chaotix and Sonic comic mainstay since the Sonic and Knuckles CHAOTIX special back in 1995 (reprinted in Sonic Select Vol 2), was of the same mental development as the rest of the Sonic cast. The Sonic comics of today show a mentally regressed Charmy, due to the damages suffered in this very story arc!

Archie
65TH ANNIVERSARY
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SEGA
Tracy Yardley!
Jim Amash
SONIC

CRACKING THE EMPIRE



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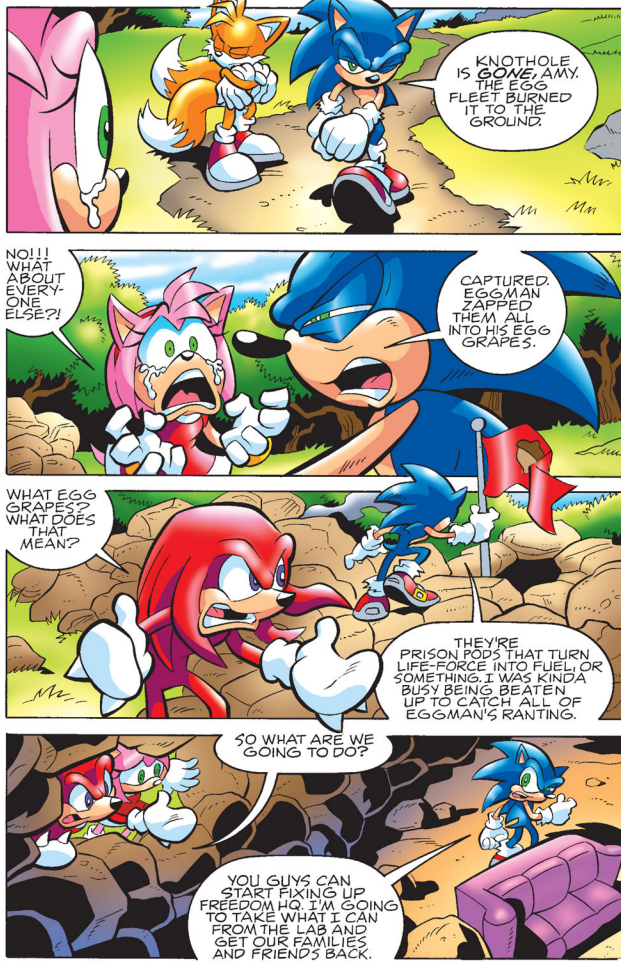
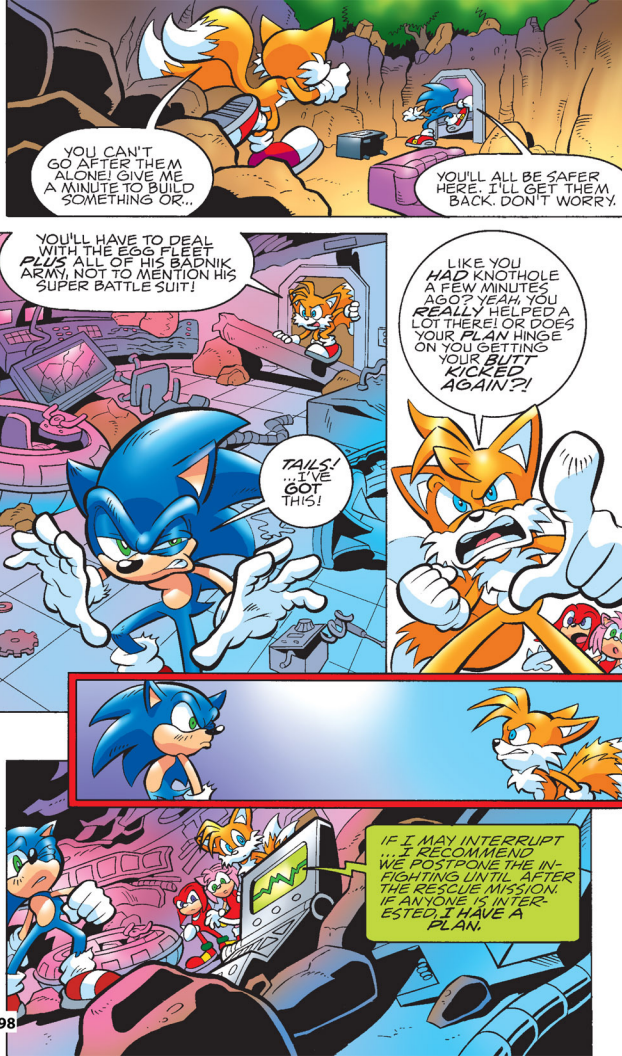
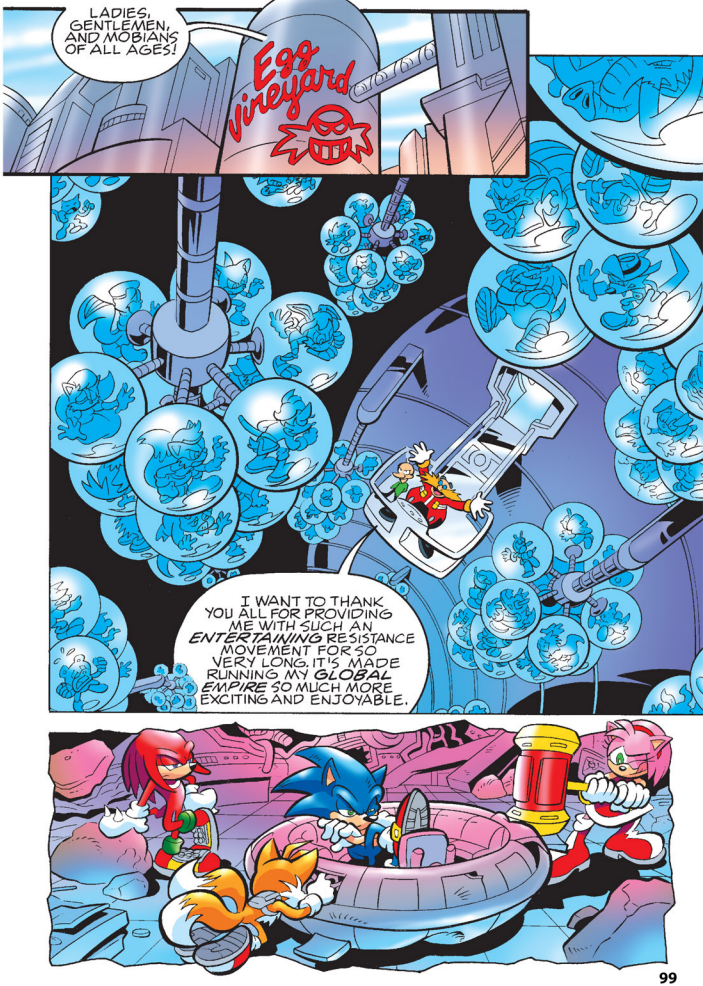
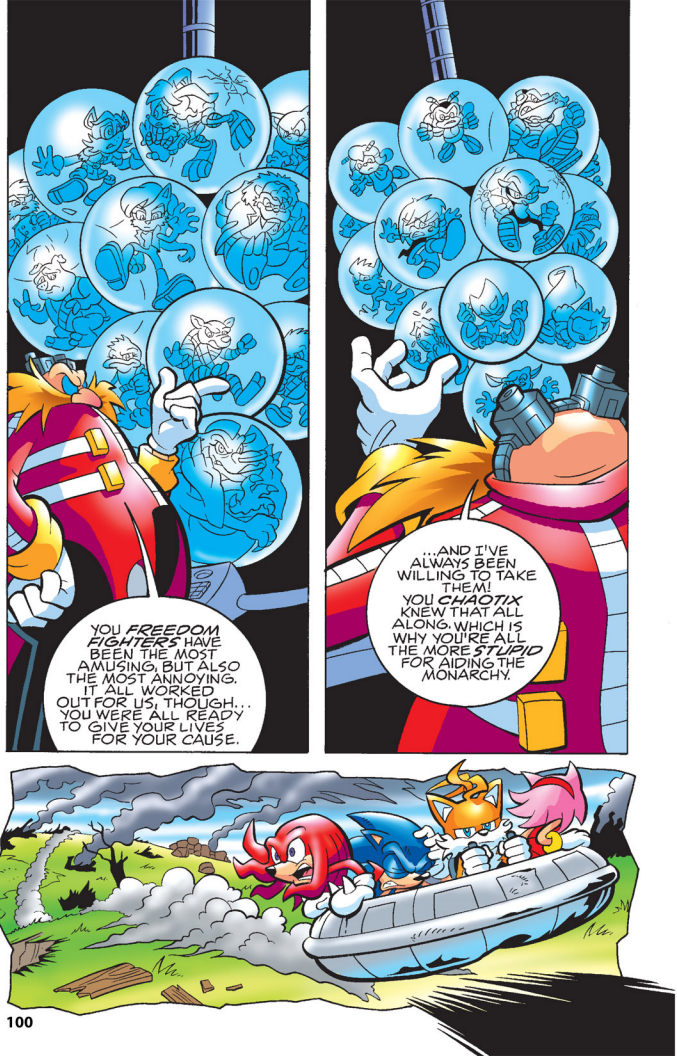
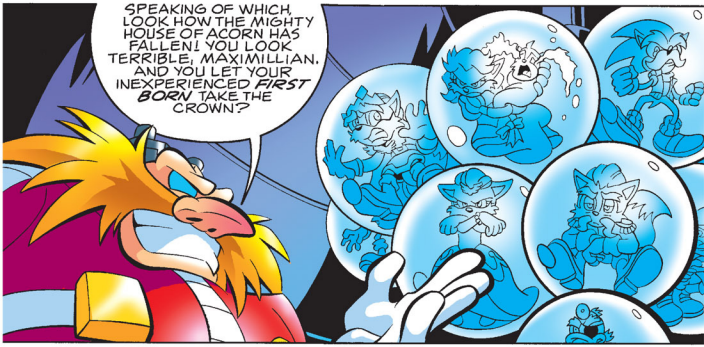
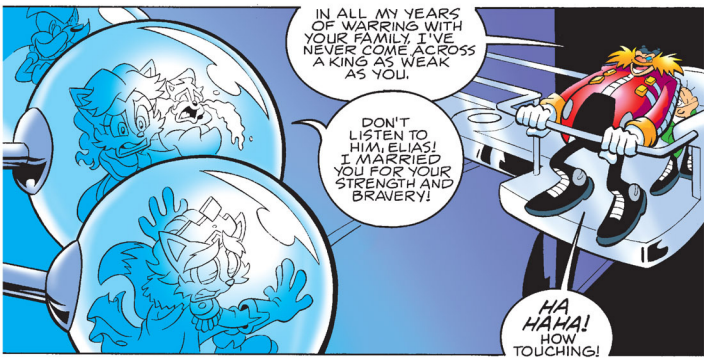

KNOTHOLE IS *GONE*, AMY. THE EGG FLEET BURNED IT TO THE GROUND.
NO!!! WHAT ABOUT EVERY-ONE ELSE?!
CAPTURED. EGGMAN ZAPPED THEM ALL INTO HIS EGG GRAPES.
WHAT EGG GRAPES?? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THEY'RE PRISON PODS THAT TURN LIFE-FORCE INTO FUEL, OR SOMETHING. I WAS KINDA BUSY BEING BEATEN UP TO CATCH ALL OF EGGMAN'S RANTING.
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
YOU GUYS CAN START FIXING UP FREEDOM HQ. I'M GOING TO TAKE WHAT I CAN FROM THE LAB AND GET OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS BACK.

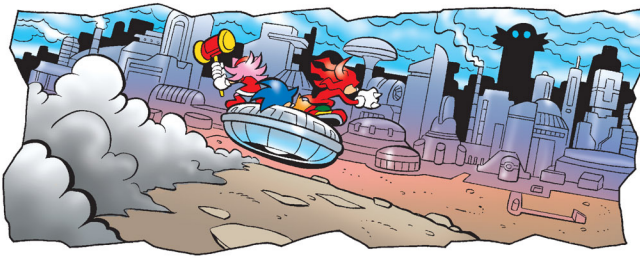

YOU CAN'T GO AFTER THEM ALONE! GIVE ME A MINUTE TO BUILD SOMETHING OR...
YOU'LL ALL BE SAFER HERE. I'LL GET THEM BACK. DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE EGG FLEET *PLUS* ALL OF HIS BADNIK ARMY, NOT TO MENTION HIS SUPER BATTLE SUIT!
TAILS! ...I'VE *GOT* THIS!
LIKE YOU *HAD* KNOTHOLE A FEW MINUTES AGO? YEAH, YOU *REALLY* HELPED A LOT THERE! OR DOES YOUR *PLAN* HINGE ON YOU GETTING YOUR *BUTT KICKED AGAIN*?!
IF I MAY INTERRUPT ... I RECOMMEND WE POSTPONE THE IN-FIGHTING UNTIL AFTER THE RESCUE MISSION. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED, I HAVE A PLAN.


LADIES, GENTLEMEN, AND MOBIANS OF ALL AGES!
Egg Vineyard
I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR PROVIDING ME WITH SUCH AN ENTERTAINING RESISTANCE MOVEMENT FOR SO VERY LONG, IT'S MADE RUNNING MY GLOBAL EMPIRE SO MUCH MORE EXCITING AND ENJOYABLE.

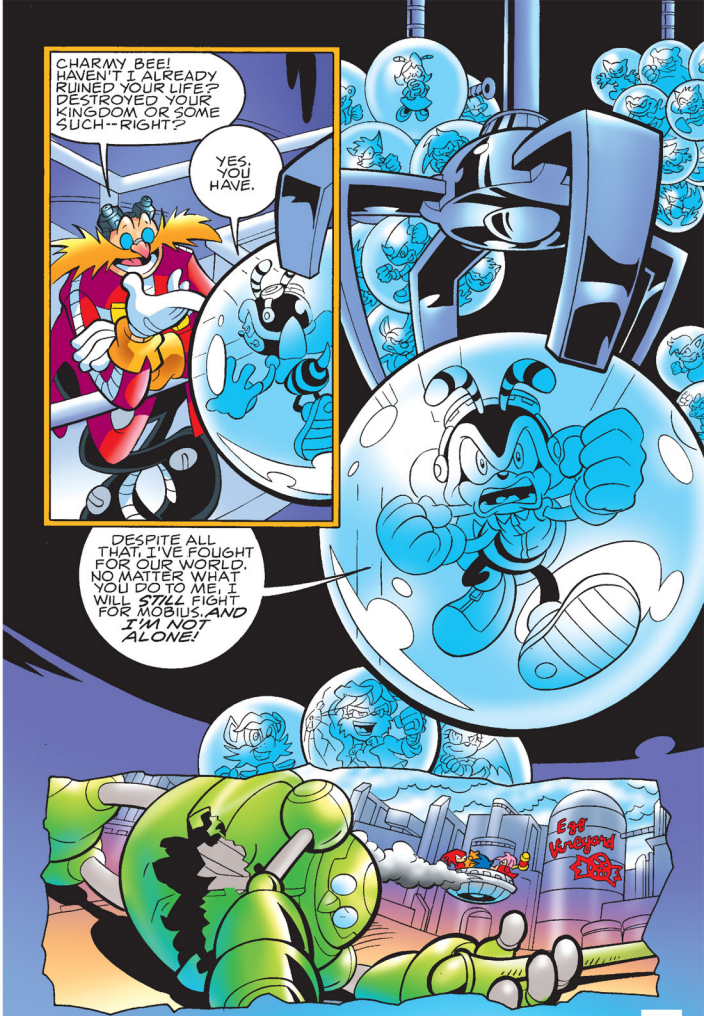

YOU *FREEDOM FIGHTERS* HAVE BEEN THE MOST AMUSING, BUT ALSO THE MOST ANNOYING. IT ALL WORKED OUT FOR US, THOUGH... YOU WERE ALL READY TO GIVE YOUR LIVES FOR YOUR CAUSE.
...AND I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO TAKE THEM! YOU *CHAOTIX* KNEW THAT ALL ALONG. WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE ALL THE MORE *STUPID* FOR AIDING THE MONARCHY.


SPEAKING OF WHICH, LOOK HOW THE MIGHTY HOUSE OF ACORN HAS FALLEN! YOU LOOK TERRIBLE, MAXIMILLIAN. AND YOU LET YOUR INEXPERIENCED FIRST BORN TAKE THE CROWN?


IN ALL MY YEARS OF WARRING WITH YOUR FAMILY, I'VE NEVER COME ACROSS A KING AS WEAK AS YOU.
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, ELIAS! I MARRIED YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND BRAVERY!
HA HAHA! HOW TOUCHING!



NOW, THEN... I'M GOING TO DEMONSTRATE TO YOU ALL JUST WHAT THESE EGG GRAPES CAN DO. THE PROCESS WILL BE ACCELERATED, BUT NOT LESS POTENT--
--JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALL GOOD AND TERRIFIED BEFORE THE END!
CHARMY!
I--IT'LL BE OKAY, SAFFRON.

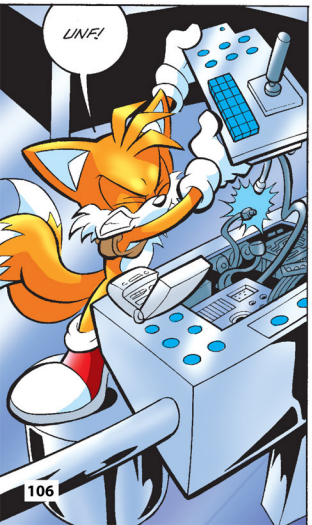

CHARMY BEE! HAVEN'T I ALREADY RUINED YOUR LIFE? DESTROYED YOUR KINGDOM OR SOME SUCH--RIGHT?
YES, YOU HAVE.
DESPITE ALL THAT, I'VE FOUGHT FOR OUR WORLD. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO ME, I WILL STILL FIGHT FOR MOBIUS. AND I'M NOT ALONE!
Egg Wayward Dog

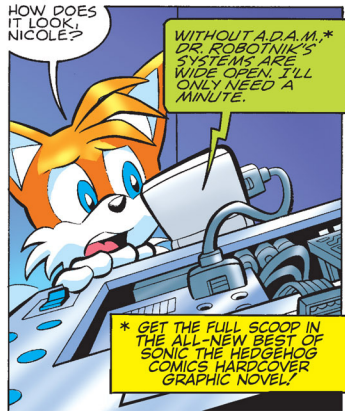
BRAVE LAST WORDS.
SNIVELY!
WITH PLEASURE, SIR.
DON'T START THE PARTY WITHOUT US, ROBOTNIK! WE... WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?
CHARMY!
NO! I CAN'T BE TOO LATE AGAIN!
NICOLE?
I'M READING A PORT ACCESS UP TOP PLUG ME IN THERE. HURRY!
I'VE GOT CHARMY!
EVERYONE STICK TO THE PLAN! AMY! KNUCKLES! BUST EVERY-ONE OUT!

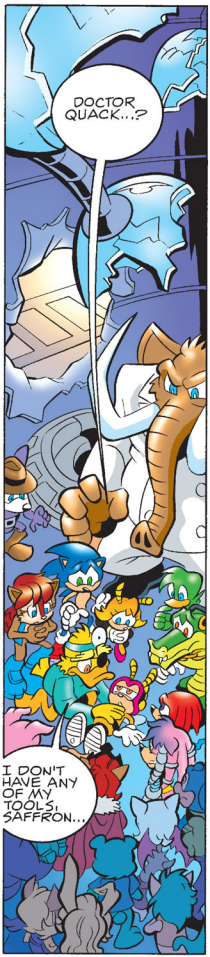
SMASH!
SMASH!
NO! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BEATEN!... YOUR SPIRIT BROKEN!
SHOWS HOW SMART YOU ARE.
SMASH!

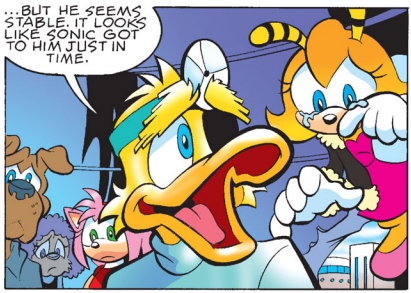
I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE CHARMY IS OKAY. YOU GET THAT MUCH OF A HEAD START, EGGMAN.

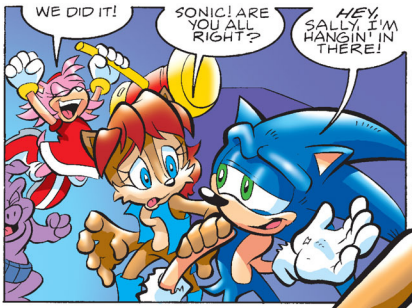
YOU SAID YOU'D CAUGHT THEM ALL! YOU MISSED THREE!
THREE OF HOW MANY HUNDRED ?!
SHUT UP AND RUN!


UNF!


HOW DOES IT LOOK, NICOLE?
WITHOUT A.D.A.M.,* DR. ROBOTNIK'S SYSTEMS ARE WIDE OPEN. I'LL ONLY NEED A MINUTE.
* GET THE FULL SCOOP IN THE ALL-NEW BEST OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG COMICS HARDCOVER GRAPHIC NOVEL!


DOCTOR QUACK...?
I DON'T HAVE ANY OF MY TOOLS, SAFFRON...


...BUT HE SEEMS STABLE. IT LOOKS LIKE SONIC GOT TO HIM JUST IN TIME.


WE DID IT!
SONIC! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY, SALLY, I'M HANGIN' IN THERE!

GOOD, BECAUSE WE HAVE TO MOVE. EVERYONE, LET'S GO!

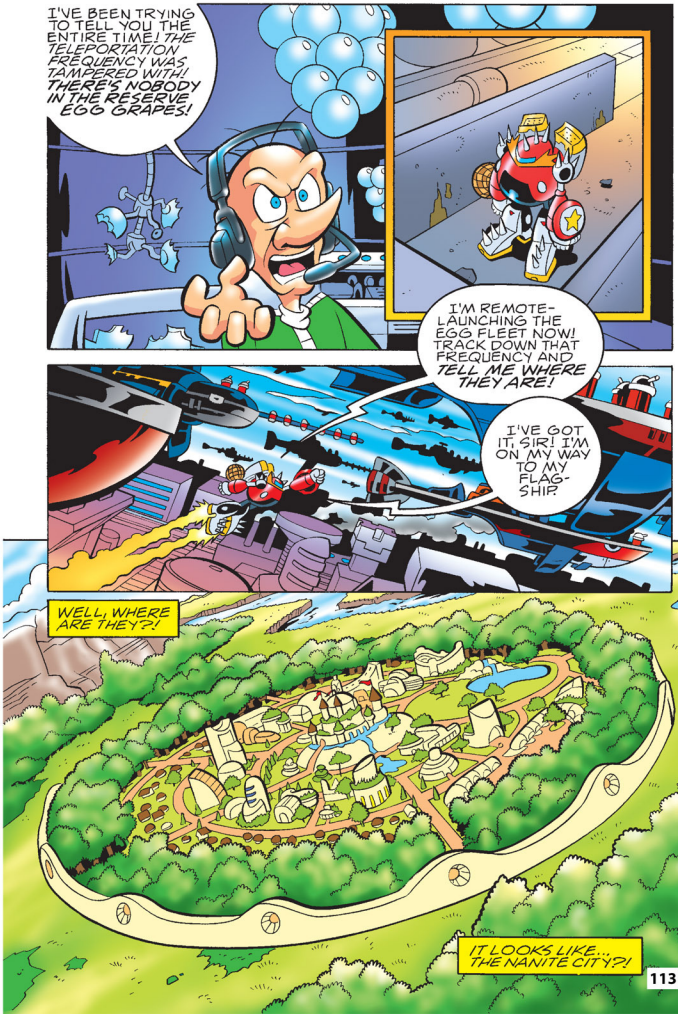
WE HAVE TO GO, NICOLE.
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN DO HERE. I'LL FINISH PREPARATIONS BACK AT HOME.
HOME...?
I'M SORRY, THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. STAY WITH THE GROUP, TAILS.
IF YOU SAY SO I HOPE YOUR PLAN WORKS...
THIS WAY, EVERYBODY! RIGHT BACK THE WAY WE CAME IN!
THERE'RE TOO MANY OF US...TOO CROWDED. MAYBE IF WE PUT AS MANY AS WE CAN ON THAT SAUCER...THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND CHAOTIX ...AND HOLD OFF ANY--
NOPE.
"NOPE"?!
WE'VE GOT A PLAN, SAL. WE STICK TOGETHER.

WHILE IT MAY USUALLY WORK FOR YOU, "RUN AWAY AS FAST AS YOU CAN" IS NOT A PLAN.
DID I SAY IT WAS MY PLAN?
NICOLE SAYS SHE'S DONE ALL SHE CAN HERE. I GUESS WE'RE READY FOR THE NEXT PART OF HER PLAN.
NICOLE CAME UP WITH THE PLAN?
WAY TO GO, TAILS!
EVERYONE! STICK TOGETHER!
DUDE, ABOUT EARLIER...
YEAH, SONIC, I...
...OH... ...NO...
HOLD THAT THOUGHT...
WAS THIS PART OF THE PLAN, TOO?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

I TOLD YOU THE GAME WAS OVER, SONIC. NOW GET BACK IN THOSE EGG GRAPES!
EVERYONE BACK! TAKE THE FIRST ALLEY TO THE RIGHT! MOVE!
KZZT!
HE'S USING A LARGER SPREAD ON HIS TELE-PORTER BEAM! WE'LL ALL BE RECAPTURED IN NO TIME!
KZZT!
WAIT FOR IT!
UM... SIR?
KZZT!
NOT NOW, SNIVELY.

I'VE ALREADY RECAPTURED MOST OF THEM...
KZZT!
...AND THE REST ARE TRAPPED AT A DEAD END!
BUT SIR! THE TELEPORTING BEAM IS...
OBVIOUSLY WORKING! NOW SHUT UP AND LET ME SAVOR THIS MOMENT!
CAN YOU SPIN DASH THROUGH THIS WALL? MAYBE GET US A WAY OUT?
PROBABLY, BUT NOT THIS TIME.
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
NO, BUT I CAN'T EXPLAIN RIGHT NOW. I DON'T WANT ROBOTNIK TO OVERHEAR AND SPOIL THE SURPRISE.

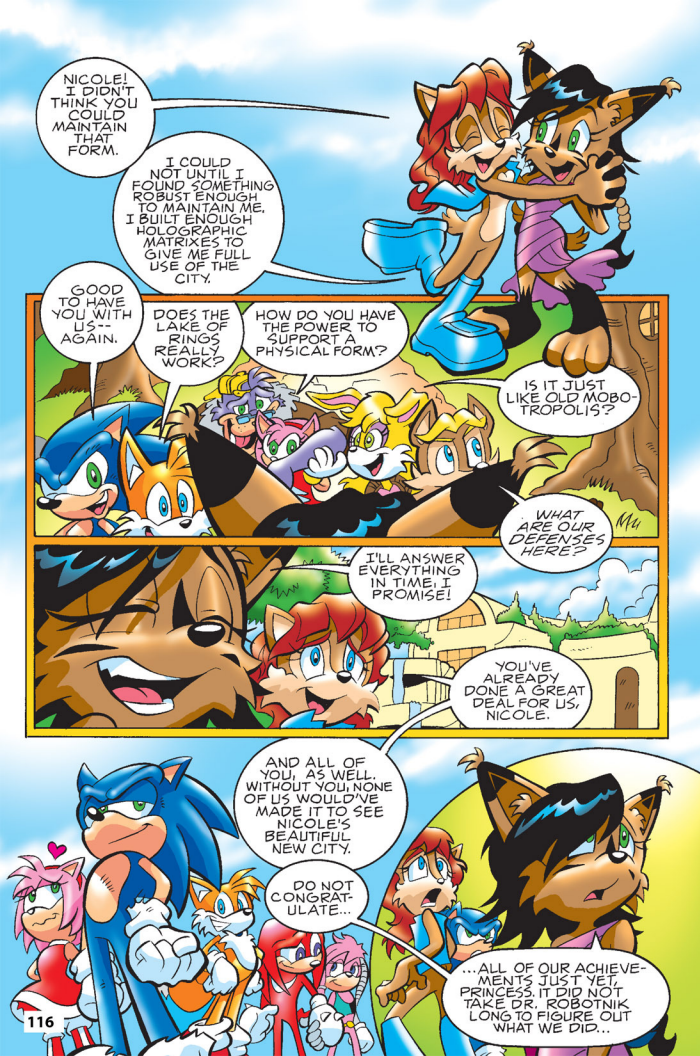
KZZT!
SONIC--!
THIS IS A FIRST FOR YOU, RODENT! TWO COLOSSAL FAILURES IN ONE DAY! WON'T YOU PUT UP A FUTILE FIGHT FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?
AND GIVE YOU THE PLEASURE? NOT LIKELY, CHUBS.
FINE, THEN. JOIN YOUR FRIENDS IN OBLIVION!
KZZT!
SEE YA ON THE FLIP SIDE, LOSER.
FINALLY I WON! SNIVELY, DON'T START THE EGG GRAPES UNTIL I'M THERE!
BUT, SIR!


I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU THE ENTIRE TIME! THE TELEPORTATION FREQUENCY WAS TAMPERED WITH! THERE'S NOBODY IN THE RESERVE EGG GRAPES!
I'M REMOTE-LAUNCHING THE EGG FLEET NOW! TRACK DOWN THAT FREQUENCY AND TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE!
I'VE GOT IT, SIR! I'M ON MY WAY TO MY FLAG-SHIP!
WELL, WHERE ARE THEY?!
IT LOOKS LIKE... THE NANITE CITY?!

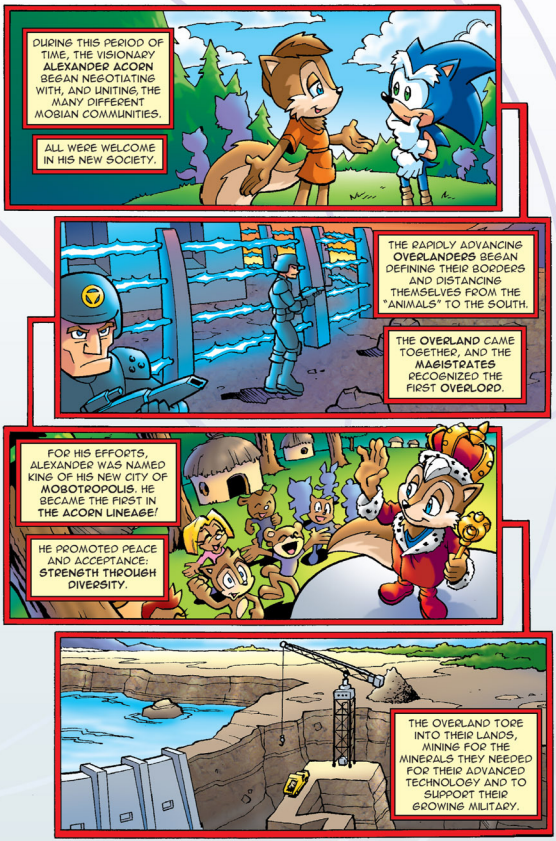
SHE DID IT! SHE REBUILT THE LAKE OF RINGS!
BUT WILL IT STILL PRODUCE THE MAGIC RINGS, I WONDER?
ALL OF OUR HOMES...
ZEY HAVE BEEN REBUILTED!
HEH, JUST "REBUILT," ANTOINE.
FATHER! LOOK--!
BY THE GLORY OF THE SOURCE...
CASTLE ACORN! AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF OUR LONG-LOST MOBOTROPOLIS!
THAT WAS WHAT I INTENDED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

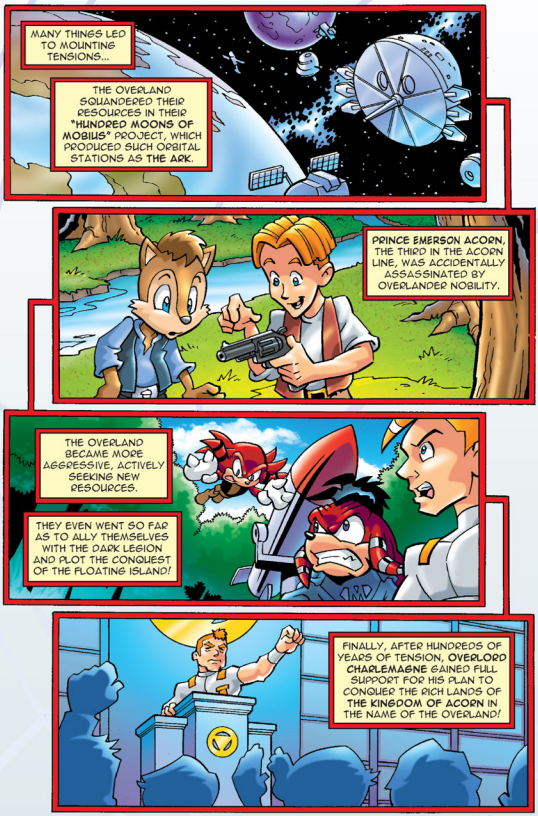
...WHOA...

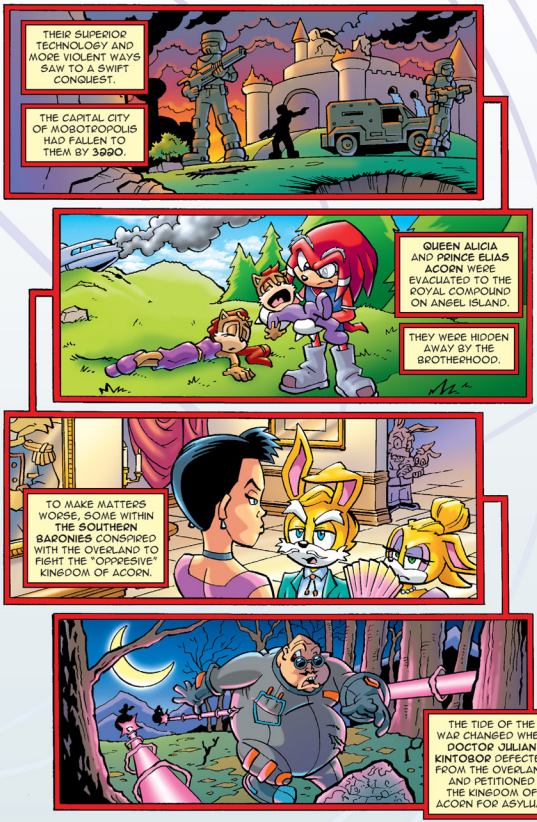
THIS WAS SOMETHING I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW. DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S EFFORTS HAVE FORCED ME TO REVEAL THIS BEFORE I WAS FINISHED, BUT ALL THE SAME...WELCOME TO NEW MOBOTROPOLIS! I WILL BE YOUR HOSTESS... NICOLE.


NICOLE! I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD MAINTAIN THAT FORM.
I COULD NOT UNTIL I FOUND SOMETHING ROBUST ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN ME. I BUILT ENOUGH HOLOGRAPHIC MATRIXES TO GIVE ME FULL USE OF THE CITY.
GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US-- AGAIN.
DOES THE LAKE OF RINGS REALLY WORK?
HOW DO YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SUPPORT A PHYSICAL FORM?
IS IT JUST LIKE OLD MOBOTROPOLIS?
WHAT ARE OUR DEFENSES HERE?
I'LL ANSWER EVERYTHING IN TIME, I PROMISE!
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE A GREAT DEAL FOR US, NICOLE.
AND ALL OF YOU, AS WELL. WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF US WOULD'VE MADE IT TO SEE NICOLE'S BEAUTIFUL NEW CITY.
DO NOT CONGRATULATE...
...ALL OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS JUST YET, PRINCESS. IT DID NOT TAKE DR. ROBOTNIK LONG TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE DID...

...AND HE HAS COME TO FINISH WHAT HE STARTED.
RIGHT WHEN YOU THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO GET A HAPPY ENDING! CHECK OUT ALL OF THE AWESOME ACTION IN CURRENT ISSUES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND SONIC UNIVERSE!

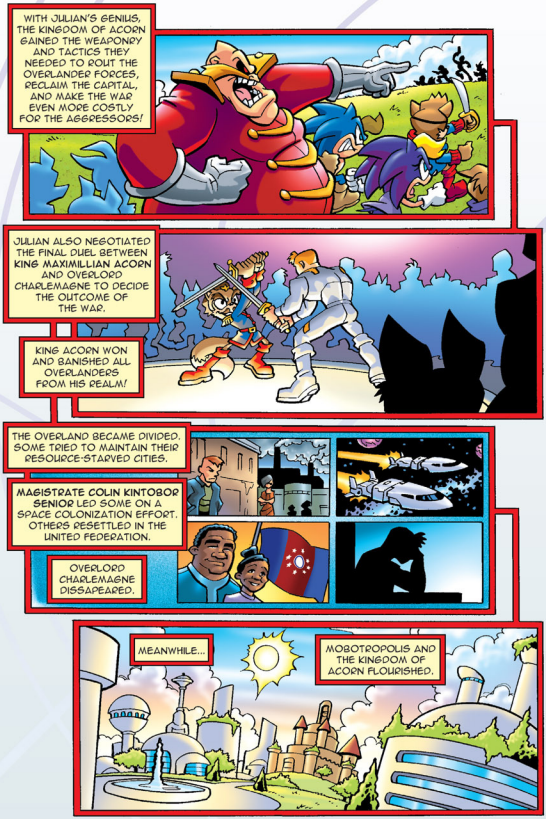

DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME, THE VISIONARY ALEXANDER ACORN BEGAN NEGOTIATING WITH, AND UNITING, THE MANY DIFFERENT MOBIAN COMMUNITIES.
ALL WERE WELCOME IN HIS NEW SOCIETY.
THE RAPIDLY ADVANCING OVERLANDERS BEGAN DEFINING THEIR BORDERS AND DISTANCING THEMSELVES FROM THE "ANIMALS" TO THE SOUTH.
THE OVERLAND CAME TOGETHER, AND THE MAGISTRATES RECOGNIZED THE FIRST OVERLORD.
FOR HIS EFFORTS, ALEXANDER WAS NAMED KING OF HIS NEW CITY OF MOBOTROPOLIS. HE BECAME THE FIRST IN THE ACORN LINEAGE!
HE PROMOTED PEACE AND ACCEPTANCE: STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY.
THE OVERLAND TORE INTO THEIR LANDS, MINING FOR THE MINERALS THEY NEEDED FOR THEIR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND TO SUPPORT THEIR GROWING MILITARY.


MANY THINGS LED TO MOUNTING TENSIONS...
THE OVERLAND SQUANDERED THEIR RESOURCES IN THEIR "HUNDRED MOONS OF MOBIUS" PROJECT, WHICH PRODUCED SUCH ORBITAL STATIONS AS THE ARK.
PRINCE EMERSON ACORN, THE THIRD IN THE ACORN LINE, WAS ACCIDENTALLY ASSASSINATED BY OVERLANDER NOBILITY.
THE OVERLAND BECAME MORE AGGRESSIVE, ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW RESOURCES.
THEY EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THE DARK LEGION AND PLOT THE CONQUEST OF THE FLOATING ISLAND!
FINALLY, AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF TENSION, OVERLORD CHARLEMAGNE GAINED FULL SUPPORT FOR HIS PLAN TO CONQUER THE RICH LANDS OF THE KINGDOM OF ACORN IN THE NAME OF THE OVERLAND!


THEIR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY AND MORE VIOLENT WAYS SAW TO A SWIFT CONQUEST.
THE CAPITAL CITY OF MOBOTROPOLIS HAD FALLEN TO THEM BY 3990.
QUEEN ALICIA AND PRINCE ELIAS ACORN WERE EVACUATED TO THE ROYAL COMPOUND ON ANGEL ISLAND.
THEY WERE HIDDEN AWAY BY THE BROTHERHOOD.
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, SOME WITHIN THE SOUTHERN BARONIES CONSPIRED WITH THE OVERLAND TO FIGHT THE "OPPRESIVE" KINGDOM OF ACORN.
THE TIDE OF THE WAR CHANGED WHEN DOCTOR JULIAN KINTOBOR DEFECTED FROM THE OVERLAND AND PETITIONED THE KINGDOM OF ACORN FOR ASYLUM.

MOBIUS TIMELINE

ACT 14 WAR'S END


WITH JULIAN'S GENIUS, THE KINGDOM OF ACORN GAINED THE WEAPONRY AND TACTICS THEY NEEDED TO ROUT THE OVERLANDER FORCES, RECLAIM THE CAPITAL, AND MAKE THE WAR EVEN MORE COSTLY FOR THE AGGRESSORS!
JULIAN ALSO NEGOTIATED THE FINAL DUEL BETWEEN KING MAXIMILLIAN ACORN AND OVERLORD CHARLEMAGNE TO DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR.
KING ACORN WON AND BANISHED ALL OVERLANDERS FROM HIS REALM!
THE OVERLAND BECAME DIVIDED. SOME TRIED TO MAINTAIN THEIR RESOURCE-STARVED CITIES.
MAGISTRATE COLIN KINTOBOR SENIOR LED SOME ON A SPACE COLONIZATION EFFORT. OTHERS RESETTLED IN THE UNITED FEDERATION.
OVERLORD CHARLEMAGNE DISSAPEARED.
MEANWHILE...
MOBOTROPOLIS AND THE KINGDOM OF ACORN FLOURISHED.

DURING THE BRIEF YEAR OF PEACE, JULIAN SAW TO IT THAT FORMER-WARLORD KODOS AND FORMER-ROYAL WIZARD IXIS NAUGUS WERE TRAPPED IN THE ZONE OF SILENCE.
WITH HIS NEPHEW, SNIVELY, AT HIS SIDE HE PREPARED HIS COUP D' ETAT!
BECOMING DOCTOR IVO ROBOTNIK, HE USED THE TECHNOLOGICAL GIFTS TO HIS HOST COUNTRY TO SEIZE IT FROM WITHIN.
KING MAXIMILLIAN ACOORN WAS BANISHED TO THE ZONE OF SILENCE.
ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE ROYAL COURT MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
MOSTLY THE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND CIVILIANS MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE INITIAL TAKEOVER.
THEY HID OUT IN THE SECLUDED VILLAGE OF KNOTHOLE, ORIGINALLY MEANT AS A RETREAT FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

INTERVIEW WITH - BEN BATES - ARTIST -

SSSM: Ben, you've been making a splash in all-things-Archie lately, from Sonic to Mega Man to the launch of Red Circle Comics' NEW CRUSADERS! When did you get started on your art career and what got you into the idea of drawing comics?

BB: And I'm very lucky to be a part of all those titles! Sonic and Mega Man are video game properties I've loved since I was a kid and New Crusaders is an opportunity to shape a new world with my own creative vision. I can hardly believe I get to do so much cool stuff!

Professionally, I started my art career in late 2009 doing the art & letters for 'S.H.O.O.T. First,' which was written by Justin Atkins and appeared in MySpace Dark Horse Presents. Shortly after I was lucky enough to start providing art for Archie's 'Sonic the Hedgehog'. But really pursuing an art career has been a life long endeavor and using my creativity to survive is something I've always known I needed to do to be happy in life.

I have friends who recall the first comic they read or the moment in childhood they decided this is what they wanted to do with their life, unfortunately I don't have a cool story like that. My interests are varied and I wanted to be in video games, animation, toy design, and comics so my focus would bounce around. I think comics came most naturally to me as all I needed to hone my skills were a pencil, some paper, and my own mind.

SSSM: Your work appears to have a heavy manga influence, what aspect of Japanese cartooning have you incorporated into your approach to storytelling?

BB: Aside from the obvious style inspiration on the surface, I think most of my visual vocabulary comes from manga. I think the aspect I find most attractive about manga is what Scott McCloud refers to as audience participation in 'Making Comics,' using a wide variety of techniques in visual presentation and storytelling to immerse the reader in an experience. Whether I achieve that is questionable but it's certainly what I'm aiming for with every comic I work on.

Photo by Bill Eckerson

BEN BATES
SONIC PENCILLER AND COVER ARTIST

SSSM: Who's your favorite Sonic character to draw? Your least favorite?

BB: Wow, I don't know if I actually have a favorite but I guess it might be Sonic himself. Although I'm pretty excited to draw Sonic & his friends in general.

THE COVERS DUKE! THE COVERS!
BEN HAS PRODUCED QUITE A FEW COVERS FOR THE SONIC TITLE, SUCH AS THIS, THE LANDMARK COVER TO STH# 231!

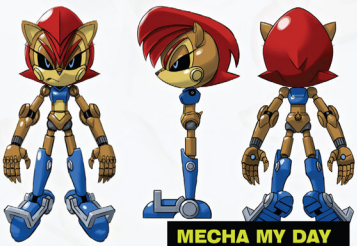
After seeing so much gorgeous art from Uekawa over the years I feel like every time I draw Sonic characters is a chance to try and contain even a speck of the mastery, fun, and imagination he puts into all of his drawings.

Least favorite, unfortunately, turns out to be much easier to identify. It used to be Ixis Naugus, but nowadays I actually like drawing him. I feel like little by little I've solved and adjusted aspects of him that make him a better fit in the world of Sonic the Hedgehog. I think my new least favorite is Snively. The character is so hideous to me I don't know if I'll ever find a way to enjoy drawing him.

SSSM: What advice would you give to an aspiring artist trying to break into the world of comics?

BB: Oh this one is super easy, it's to draw as many comics as you can before you're a professional. Write and draw your own stories, find scripts online, or team up with a writer, but produce as much material and start honing your skills as soon as possible. Everytime you draw a new page you'll be learning what works and what doesn't; how to better handle pacing, where to add or combine panels, depicting action, location, emotion. You'll learn how to actually do the job.

SSSM: Can you give us any teasers about your upcoming projects in Sonic, Mega Man or New Crusaders? What if we ask reeeaaallly nicely?



MECHA MY DAY
BEN'S DESIGN TURN AROUNDS FOR MECHA SALLY!

BB: Oh man, teasers? I think by this time all my current work on Sonic and Mega Man will be out. For New Crusaders, I'm not sure what would be a good teaser. Maybe something like: the story literally starts out with a bang and you'll get to see both old and new superheroes in action! ■

TITAN METAL SONIC
BEN BATES ILLUSTRATES A MASSIVE METAL SONIC IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #231!